

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Education, Social Care and Wheelchair Accessible Minibuses and Coaches Tender Award

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 12 July 2011

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Bowyer and Councillor Sam Leaves

**CMT Member:** Director for Corporate Support  
Director of Services for Children and Young People

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**Ref:** Contract 10099

**Key Decision:** Yes

**Part:** I

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### Executive Summary:

Plymouth City Council spent in excess of £ 850k on the provision of Education, Social Care and Wheelchair Accessible Minibuses and Coaches in 2010/11.

A Contract let for Minibuses and Coaches in April 2007 is due to expire at the end of July 2011. A formal tender was therefore advertised through a Restricted Procedure on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010. Following consultation with Children's Transport and Legal a decision was reached to abort the process at the Pre Qualification Questionnaire stage due to the extremely low response, which it was considered would prevent genuine competition between the tenderers and reduce the opportunity to the Council to achieve value for money.

A further formal tender was therefore advertised through the Accelerated Restricted Procedure on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

The tender has resulted in a recommended contract award value at £4,670,143 for five years, with a possible option of additional one plus one years, separated into two contracts. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, the full details of the proposed contract award are included within a separate Part II Report.

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### Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014:

At the commencement of the tender process, the principal aims were to ensure 1) Improving Customer service, 2) keeping Children safe and 3) providing better value for money.

The recommended solution supports the Corporate Improvement Priorities identified in the corporate plan 2011 – 2014 as follows:-

- Reduce inequality – Access to services and opportunities through transport provision
- Provide value for communities – Customer satisfaction with the council offering VFM

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:  
Including finance, human, IT and land**

The recommended solution will increase spend by approximately £482,332 over the contract duration.

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**Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Duty and Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- Health and Safety – to ensure the safe transportation of vulnerable children and adults from home to school and other establishments
- Risk Management – to ensure that Plymouth City Council meets its legal obligations in the transport vulnerable children and adults from home to school and other establishments
- Equalities Duty - eliminating discrimination, advancing equal opportunities and fostering good relations
- Equalities Impact Assessment – not undertaken as the provision of transportation is a legal requirement

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**Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:**

That two contracts for the provision of Education, Social Care and Wheelchair Accessible Minibuses and Coaches be awarded according to the report’s recommendations. The contracts will be for up to seven years (five years initially with an option for the authority to extend for up to a further two years subject to the providers’ satisfactory performance).

For reasons of commercial confidentiality, the full details of the proposed contract award are included within a separate Part II Report.

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**Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:**

The authority could operate without a corporate contract, however this would increase not only costs but also expose the authority to increased legal risks.

The contract could be awarded to another contractor, however the award report details a fair and transparent evaluation process which identifies the best value for money for the authority. Reversing the evaluation panel’s decisions may have legal implications and make the council subject to commercial risks.

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**Background papers:**

Contract Award Report (Part II)

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**Sign off:**

Fin	<b>MC SRA/Ch SO336/ 16.6.1</b>	Leg	<b>MS 11960</b>	HR		Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	<b>PWC 1112.004</b>
Originating SMT Member: Malcolm Coe – AD for Finance, Assets and Efficiencies											