

Decision Register Entry

**Executive
Fwd Plan
Reference**

E2504

Award of new contracts following tender for supported bus services

Decision maker/s	Cllr Roger Symonds Cabinet Member for Transport
The Issue	To agree the award of certain contracts for supported public transport services in Bath and North East Somerset.
Decision Date	11 th December 2012
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A contract for the Mon-Sat evening journeys on service 376 between Bristol and Wells shall be awarded to First on a net subsidy basis. 2. A contract for the Sunday and Bank Holiday evening journeys on service 376 between Bristol and Wells shall be awarded to First on a gross cost basis. 3. A contract for the Mon-Sat evening journeys on service 178 between Bristol and Radstock shall be awarded to First on a net subsidy basis. 4. A contract for the Mon-Sat evening journeys on service 178 between Bath, Midsomer Norton and Paulton shall be awarded to Wessex on a net subsidy basis. 5. A contract for the Sunday and Bank Holiday evening journeys on service 178 between Bath and Midsomer Norton shall be awarded to First on a net subsidy basis. 6. A contract for Bank Holiday journeys on service 173 between Bath and Wells shall be awarded to First on a net subsidy basis. 7. A contract for the Sunday and Bank Holiday journeys on service 678 between Bristol, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton, and Writhlington shall be awarded to First on a net subsidy basis. 8. A contract for the Mon-Sat evening journeys on Services 1 and 6 in Bath shall be awarded to First on a net subsidy basis. 9. Contracts for the Mon-Sat evening, Sunday evening, and Bank Holiday journeys on Service 13 in Bath shall be awarded to First on a gross cost basis. 10. Contracts for the Mon-Sat evening, Sunday, and Bank Holiday journeys on Service 17 in Bath shall be awarded to First on a net subsidy basis. 11. A contract for the Tuesday only daytime return journey on service 834 between Chewton Mendip, Bishop Sutton, and Weston super Mare shall be awarded to CT Coaches on a

	<p>gross cost basis.</p> <p>12. The contract with Abus for operation of the 42 Park & Ride service is extended for a further twelve months on a de minimis basis.</p>
Rationale for decision	<p>These contract awards largely retain the current pattern of journeys on these services whilst generating significant and worthwhile savings for the Council. The contracts specified offer good value and the tender process has delivered competitive bids. The recommended awards secure cost savings across a substantial part of the contract portfolio from April 2013.</p> <p>The operator of the contract for the 42 P&R service has invested in new vehicles for the service, which was not a contractual requirement. The proposed reduction in contract price protects the Authority from potential cost increases from April 2014; and the discount is considered to be favourable compared to likely results from bus tendering if and when the Government implements its proposals on Bus Service Operators' Grant.</p>
Financial and budget implications	<p>The cost in 2013/14 of the awarded contracts is forecast to be £161k. In 2012/13 the forecast cost of the contracts for the equivalent services is £249k. This saving will contribute to the savings target for the supported services budget in 2013/14.</p> <p>Further decisions on service improvements, contract awards, and contract terminations will be referred to the February 2013 Cabinet meeting which will confirm the 2013/14 budget for supported bus services.</p> <p>The reduction in cost from the extension of the contract with Abus, is forecast to be £11.2k in 2013/14. The cost of the service is shared equally between the Council and the RUH, and the RUH contribution will reduce by £5.6k in consequence in 2013/14.</p> <p>There is a significant reduction in the degree of revenue risk which the Council is exposed to on gross cost contracts. Monitoring of gross cost contract revenues will be undertaken regularly throughout the year, so that any risk to the overall budget provision is recognised at an early stage.</p>
Issues considered	Sustainability; Customer Focus; Social Inclusion; Young People
Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillors; Parish Councils; Town Councils; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Extensive invitation to comment in advance of service specifications being drawn up.
Other options considered	A range of alternative service specifications were considered in respect of the tendered routes. Opportunities to group bids and incorporate journeys with other timetabled services were available to Operators.

Signatures of Decision Makers	
Date of Signature	