

Decision Register Entry

**Executive  
Fwd Plan  
Reference**

**E2122**

**Award of new contracts following tender for supported bus services**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	<b>Cllr Charles Gerrish      Cabinet Member for Customer Services</b>
<b>The Issue</b>	To agree the award of contracts for supported public transport services in Bath and North East Somerset.
<b>Decision Date</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>The decision</b>	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracts for the 20A/C Monday – Saturday services shall be awarded to Wessex Connect on a net subsidy basis.</li> <li>2. The current 16:44 20C term time only service from Bath University to Twerton will cease. An additional 20C journey will operate from Bath Bus Station at 19:00 (Mon-Fri) via Bath University, Combe Down, Twerton, Weston and the RUH.</li> <li>3. Contracts for the existing timetable on the 768 service shall be awarded to CT Coaches on a net subsidy basis.</li> <li>4. The 768 service will no longer extend to Hinton Blewett, but existing contracts will be amended to provide weekly services between Hinton Blewett and Bath, and Hinton Blewett and Radstock.</li> <li>5. the current contract for 768 Tuesday and Thursday services will be terminated after due notice as this contract is replaced by the new 768 contracts.</li> <li>6. De minimis contracts for operation of the current timetable on the 665 service will be awarded to B&amp;NES Environmental Services (Mon-Fri) and CT Coaches (Saturdays) on a gross cost basis.</li> </ol>
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>These contract awards improve the current pattern of Monday-Saturday services on the 20A/C whilst generating worthwhile savings for the Council. The new contracts offer significant improvements in vehicle quality and accessibility.</p> <p>The additional 20C service in the evening provides a worthwhile service at Bath University where lectures continue into the early evening. The cessation of the 16:44 service from the University is based on repeated observations of low patronage numbers, and passengers can be accommodated on the normal hourly service.</p> <p>The retention of the 768 services maintains essential links for rural communities. The withdrawal of the Hinton Blewett extension to the</p>

	<p>768 service is based on records of minimal patronage levels, and alternative journey options can be provided at low cost by extending other services.</p> <p>The 665 service will benefit from the introduction of a new accessible vehicle from the start of the contract. The recommended award recognises that best value for money is obtained by separating the Saturday operation from the Monday to Friday operation and setting up de minimis arrangements for the two component parts. The service will also benefit from the further investment during the contract period.</p>
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	<p>The current annual costs of the tendered contracts at 2010/11 prices are £280,581. These services are included in the overall supported services 2010/11 budget of £957,000.</p> <p>The contract awards result in an annual cost at 2010/11 prices of £265,830, although the full reduction in costs will only be achieved over a longer period as the new contracts commence mid year. The 2010/11 budget does not include any contingency to respond to service changes. In 2009/10 the demands on contingency funds from unforeseen service changes were circa £14,000 and there is a continuing risk of significant network changes in 2010/11 as operators react to the effect of the recession. It is therefore proposed to retain the savings achieved as a contingency against further network changes in 2010/11.</p> <p>The new contracts involve a small increase in revenue risk. Monitoring of income will take place on a regular basis from contract commencement to identify any adverse trends and enable corrective action to be taken.</p>
<b>Issues considered</b>	Sustainability; Customer Focus; Social Inclusion; Young People;
<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	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
<b>How consultation was carried out</b>	Extensive invitation to comment in advance of service specifications being drawn up.
<b>Other options considered</b>	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.

<b>Signatures of Decision Makers</b>	
<b>Date of Signature</b>	