

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT****DATE: 22 AUGUST 2018****LEAD OFFICER: JASON RUSSELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT****SUBJECT: PUBLIC BUS CONTRACT AWARDS****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey County Council is responsible for sourcing sustainable, safe, secure and reliable local bus services as defined by the Transport Acts 1985 and 2000. These services enable residents to access employment, education, medical appointments, essential food shopping and other key services.

At Cabinet on 26 June 2018, a report was considered detailing the proposed award of fifteen contracts for local bus services. Nine of these were approved but a decision on the other six (to BETC Ltd.) was deferred and delegated to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport for a subsequent decision, in consultation with the Executive Director Highways, Transport & Environment and the S.151 Officer.

Current contracts expire on 31 August 2018 and will seamlessly be replaced by new contracts for a three year period.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

- i. the background set out in this report be noted: and
- ii. following consideration of the results of the tendering process in Part 2 of this meeting, the award of contracts to these operators be agreed instead: Stagecoach South Ltd., C E Jeatt & Son Ltd. (White Bus), Falcon Coaches Ltd. and Metrobus Ltd.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This recommendation will enable Surrey County Council to:

- continue to deliver the bus services in question to meet essential public transport needs of residents; and
- secure services delivered by operators who are reputable and meet the Council's minimum level of quality.

The bus services under consideration are as follows:

32 Guildford-Dorking-Strood Green (Sundays)
73 Woking-Chobham (Monday-Saturday)

318 Epsom-Burgh Heath-Banstead (Monday-Friday)
437 Woking-Pyrford-Brooklands (Monday-Saturday)
479 Guildford-Leatherhead-Epsom (Sundays)
866 Coulsdon-Banstead-Beacon School (School days)

DETAILS:

The Business Case, Procurement Strategy and Competitive Tendering Process was set out in the Cabinet report of 26 June 2018.

CONSULTATION:

1. The routes and timetables for these bus services will be unaltered, but details of changes to operators will be advised to the public and interested parties in advance of the contract start date of 1 September 2018.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

2. The contract terms and conditions have been drafted by Surrey County Council (SCC) Legal Services and were updated in December 2016 prior to East and West Sussex County Councils joining the Dynamic Purchasing System in January 2017. Default procedures are fully-addressed.
3. The operators will use their own assets to perform these contracts and will retain so upon expiry. If TUPE applies to transition of employees, this will occur in line with standard TUPE regulations.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

4. Details of the contract values and financial implications are set out in the Part 2 report.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

5. The Section 151 Officer supports the contract awards set out in this paper. Additional comments are included in Part 2 of this report.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

6. All bids have been evaluated and recommended suppliers have been selected in accordance with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement Standing Orders.
7. Under Section 63 (1) (a) of the Transport Act 1985, Local Transport Authorities must secure the provision of such public passenger transport services as the Council considers appropriate, which in their view would not be met, apart from any action taken by them for the purpose.

Equalities and Diversity

Contract documentation stipulates that the supplier will comply with the relevant Equality & Diversity legislation.

Environmental sustainability implications

9. Bus service 437 will be operated using a brand new vehicle with Euro VI emission rating, which is the cleanest diesel bus available. This will assist with reducing air pollution. Tests have proved that Euro VI buses have 98% lower NOx emissions than the lower-rated vehicle currently on this service.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

Subject to approval of contract awards for these bus services, they will commence on 1 September 2018 and the public and other interested parties will be informed.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Robert Gilmour - Strategic Procurement Manager Tel: 07870 981058
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Annexes: None

Background papers: Cabinet report and minutes 26 June 2018

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