



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

17 June 2014

Report title	Provision of Hired School Transport, Academic Year 2014/15	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor P Page Schools, Skills and Learning	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
Originating service	Pupil Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Bill Hague Tel Email	Strategic Lead 01902 556943 bill.hague@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Education and Enterprise, to accept tenders for the provision of Hired School Transport for the 2014/15 academic year.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek authority for the Strategic Director for Education and Enterprise in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning to accept tenders for the provision of Hired School Transport for the 2014/15 academic year in accordance with the arrangements set out in section two and where the contract values are contained within the budget provision detailed in section three of the report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Transport is required each year in order to provide home to school transport facilities for children with special educational needs.
- 2.2 In compliance with the contract procedure rules, an annual tendering procedure is applied to known available routes that will operate during the 2014/15 academic year.
- 2.3 Public Notices are placed in local newspapers inviting contractors to submit tenders. Once the closing date has been reached, the tenders are considered by employees of the Corporate Procurement Team in liaison with employees of the Education & Enterprise Directorate and the Licensing Section.
- 2.4 Tenders are invited between May and July each year once employees have confirmation of pupils' school placements for the new academic year.
- 2.5 The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is advised of the proposed contracts to be offered to companies, and plenary powers are requested from the Council to accept tenders. Once Councillors' approval is given to accept the tenders, the relevant companies are offered contracts to commence at the start of the new academic year.
- 2.6 This ensures the necessary contracts are in place in time for the beginning of the new academic year.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 There is provision of £2,084 million in the 2014/15 Education and Enterprise revenue budgets for home to school transport in respect of special schools and resource bases
- 3.2 This report has direct financial implications in that it deals with the deployment of financial resources for the Authority's statutory duties/powers to provide home to school transport.
- 3.3 It is likely that the overall financial provision for home to school transport will be fully utilised by the end of the financial year.
[CF/28052014/N]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a statutory duty on local authorities to ensure that suitable travel arrangements are made, where necessary, to facilitate a child's attendance at school.
[AS/28052014/Q]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 This report has implications for the Authority's policy in that it concerns the deployment of limited resources for the benefit of children who are disabled and/or have special educational needs. Equalities considerations will be systematically considered throughout the tendering process and via contract management. As a result of this Councillors can be confident that the authority will have "due regard" to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Duty and Equality Act 2010. This report itself has no direct equality implications.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 This report has no direct implications for the Authority's environmental protection policies.

7.0 Human Resource Implications

There are no human resource implications contained within this report.

8.0 Corporate Landlord Implications

There are no corporate landlord implications contained within this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

None.