

## Cabinet (Resources) Panel

22 March 2023

<b>Report title</b>	Procurement – Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Obaida Ahmed Resources and Digital City	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Claire Nye, Director of Finance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Procurement	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	John Thompson	Head of Procurement
	Tel	01902 554503
	Email	<a href="mailto:John.Thompson@wolverhampton.gov.uk">John.Thompson@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Directorate Leadership Team	

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### Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Changes, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for Taxi Driver Smart ID Cards when the evaluation process is complete.

**1.0 Councillor Steve Evans, Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change**  
**1.1 Delegated Authority to Award a Contract – Taxi Driver Smart ID Cards**

<b>Ref no:</b>	<b>CWC22131</b>
Council Plan aim	Healthy, inclusive communities
Originating service	Taxi Licensing
Accountable officer	Greg Bickerdike, Licensing Manager, Taxi Licensing and Compliance (01902) 554030
Leadership Team approval	14 February 2023
Accountable Lead Cabinet Member	Cllr Steve Evans, Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change (01902) 861498
Date Lead Cabinet Member briefed	17 February 2023
Procurement advisor	Karen Boden, Procurement Manager (01902) 555136

**1.2 Background**

- 1.3 City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) has over 26,000 private hire and Hackney Carriage (black cab) licensed drivers on record and applicants must undergo a statutory application process to be granted a licence by CWC. With increasing UK-wide media stories emerging regarding public safety in relation to taxi drivers committing criminal offences, CWC is committed to being at the forefront of ensuring public safety.
- 1.4 Currently, Wolverhampton licensed drivers have standard (non-electronic) identity cards (“badges”). CWC wishes to replace the standard card with an alternative, “smart” ID card for private hire and Hackney Carriage licensed drivers, comprising near-field communication (NFC) technology, so that when “tapped” with a smart phone or mobile device by a member of the public, police, CWC Compliance Officers etc, the driver’s key licence details are displayed either in a browser or an app.
- 1.5 The objectives of the smart ID cards are anticipated to eliminate card fraud and deliver the resulting benefits:
- Driver protection from ID theft
  - Safeguard the public
  - Align with the Protect Duty
  - Reduce CWC Officer time and resource investigating card fraud

<b>Proposed Contract Award</b>	
Contract duration	Six years (3+1+1+1)
Contract Commencement date	1 May 2023
Year 1 value	£150,000
Annual value (Year 2 onwards)	£50,000
Total value	£400,000

## **1.6 Procurement Process**

- 1.7 The intended procurement procedure will be an above threshold open procedure in accordance with Public Contract Regulations 2015. This route to market has been determined to provide opportunities for the local supply chain to bid for the contract supporting the Wolverhampton Pound.
- 1.8 The evaluation scoring balance will be 60% quality and 40% price. Any amendments to the procurement procedure will be reported in an Individual Executive Decision Notice (IEDN) to the relevant Cabinet Member in consultation with the relevant Director in accordance with the delegation within this report.
- 1.9 The evaluation team will comprise:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
Greg Bickerdike	Licensing Manager - Taxi Licensing & Compliance
Mark Flanagan	Section Leader - Licensing (Business Systems)
Lorraine Jones	Service Lead - Licensing

## **1.10 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 1.11 The Chair of Regulatory Committee has advised that the service improves the security of its driver badges as soon as is practicably possible. The number of fraudulent badges reflects negatively on the reputation of CWC and poses a risk to public safety.
- 1.12 Pursuing a “smart” ID card solution will help safeguard the general public, and vulnerable people in Wolverhampton and in other areas where Wolverhampton-licensed drivers are licensed to operate.
- 1.13 The option of “do nothing” and keep the status quo, would result in the continuation of driver cards being forged, which provides a risk to public safety and CWC reputational damage.

#### **1.14 Reason for decisions**

1.15 Undertaking this compliant procurement exercise will result in the introduction of a “smart” ID card solution which will help safeguard the general public and vulnerable people.

#### **1.16 Financial implications**

1.17 The contract will be funded from the income received for Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Driver licences.

#### **1.18 Legal implications**

1.19 The procurement will be an above threshold open procedure in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.

#### **1.20 Equalities implications**

1.21 A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out with the equalities team. This has identified the relevant impacts and how these will be mitigated during the contract. In particular, provisions will be made for passengers who do not own a smart phone, those who may be visually impaired and those who are non-English speaking to access the driver’s ID card information via alternative methods.

#### **1.22 All other implications**

1.23 There are no other implications associated with this report.

#### **1.24 Recommendation**

1.25 Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Changes, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for Taxi Driver Smart ID Cards when the evaluation process is complete.

## **2.0 Financial implications**

2.1 All financial implications are included within the relevant section of the report.  
[RP/07032023/L]

## **3.0 Legal implications**

3.1 All legal implications are included within the relevant section of the report.  
[SZ/06032023/P]

## **4.0 Equalities implications**

4.1 The relevance to equalities and progress in terms of equality analysis will vary for each proposal included in this report. Accountable officers have and will ensure that evidence is collected and used to demonstrate compliance with CWC's legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

## **5.0 All other implications**

5.1 All other implications are included within the relevant section of the report.

## **6.0 Schedule of background papers**

6.1 All background papers are included within the relevant section of the report.