

Cabinet - 11 May, 2005

Transport Framework Agreement

Portfolio: Councillor Alan Paul – Health & Social Care
Councillor Eddie Hughes – Children's Services

Service Area: Children's/Adult Services

Wards: All Wards

Forward Plan: Yes

Summary of report

Social Care and Supported Housing purchases transport services from external providers to a value of approximately £750,000 per annum. Some of the transport is purchased through centralised and formal tendering procedures, however a significant proportion is arranged on an ad hoc basis particularly with regard to journeys undertaken by taxis which raises issues in terms of legal compliance and safety as well as adherence with Contract Procedure Rules (CPR).

Arrangements are therefore now being made for the seeking of tenders for a new 'Framework Agreement' which will operate in the form of a call off contract on a price per mile basis for all transport services, including Public Service Vehicles, mini buses and taxis.

It is feasible that the volume of work awarded to a single contractor throughout the year could potentially exceed the threshold of £250,000, and in these circumstances contract Procedure Rule 25.3 would apply which necessitates Cabinet approval for the award of contract.

In establishing the Framework, arrangements for contract tendering will be undertaken in compliance with CPR and European Union Procurement Rules. In awarding contracts, formal arrangements will be put in place between the Council and the selected service providers.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:-

Delegate to the Executive Director, Social Care & Supported Housing, authority to accept tenders and authorise detailed terms in relation to the contacts which are let under the Framework Agreement

Resource and legal considerations

Tendering requirements will be undertaken in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

The Framework Agreement will enhance the co-ordination and procurement of transport services, and ensure compliance with Best Value principles.

Citizen impact

Tenderers will be required to comply with a detailed Service Specification which will ensure high standards of safety and quality for service for users.

Community safety

The Service Specification provides for high standards of safety for service users, including CRB checks having been undertaken for all drivers and escorts.

Environmental impact

All vehicles will be required to have complied with MOT and License testing, which provides for compliance with vehicle emission testing regulations.

Performance and risk management issues

There will be regular monitoring to ensure that successful tenderers fully comply with the service specification which is designed to minimise risks to clients.

Equality implications

The tender process will require all tenders to comply with equality legislation.

Consultation

A consultation process has been undertaken with prospective tenderers, which has provided positive feedback with regard to the proposed arrangements.

Discussions have also taken place with Education Walsall who procure similar services. There has been strong interest in the approach to the Framework Agreement and the possibility of a joint approach will be explored further when contracts for the 2006/07 academic year are being considered for renewal.

Vision 2008

The framework arrangements will ensure a wide variety of transport is available to meet user requirements which particularly contributes towards being able to:-

- Make it easier for people to get around
- Make it easier to access local services
- Make Walsall a healthy and caring place.

Background papers:

None.

Contact officer:

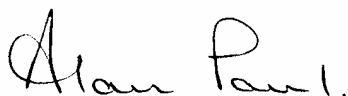
Kelvin Dawson – Head of Support Services, Social Care & Supported Housing.
Contact No: 01922 652701.



Signed.....

Executive Director: David Martin

Date: 29 April 2005



Signed.....

Portfolio Holder : Cllr. Alan Paul

Date: 3 May 2005



Signed.....

Portfolio Holder : Cllr Eddie Hughes

Date: 3 May 2005