

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Lead Member for Universal Services |
| Date: | 15 May 2023 |
| Title: | Bus Contracts for Alton and Winchester Areas |
| Report From: | Director of Universal Services |

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services gives authority to spend and enter into contractual arrangements (in consultation with the Head of Legal Services) for new contracts for the Alton and Winchester local bus services, as set out in the supporting report, to commence from 1 August 2023 for a period of four years with an option to extend in annual increments until September 2029 at an annual cost of £461,021, and total maximum cost of £3,557,059, to be met from the Public Bus Budget with a £53,795 contribution from the Home to School Transport Budget for service 67.
- 1.2 That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services approves the mechanism set out within the supporting report to bring contract values down into budgeted levels including conducting a full review of usage on the proposed services and potentially recommending changes to service levels to reduce cost. The Executive Lead Member for Universal Services also notes that this will result in a further report being brought for consideration setting out any recommended changes in full.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Approval to award new contracts will continue to give access to employment, education, health, retail and leisure facilities for the widest section of the community.
- 2.2. In the case of the 67, this service is intrinsic to the Home to School Transport provision in the Meon Valley.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Other timetable options, including exploring enhancements to services, were rejected on the grounds of not proving affordable with current budget levels.
- 3.2. Not awarding these tenders was considered and rejected as it would result in a reduced, or in some cases, no bus service in these areas.

3.3. Reducing the frequency of the timetables for all tendered services. This was rejected as it is the County Council's ambition to retain these services as far as is affordable.

3.4. Options for Community Transport alternatives (including Taxishares) have been considered where appropriate. However, the volume of passengers recorded on some individual journeys would exceed the capacity of such solutions.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

15 May 2023

**Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Councillor Nick Adams-King**