

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	12 November 2019
Title:	Local Bus Contracts in Fareham, Gosport and Alton/Alresford
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to detail the outcomes of tenders to provide four bus services in the Fareham and Gosport area and two in the Alton / Alresford area. The services have been tendered via the Public Bus Dynamic Purchasing System. If approved, the resulting contracts will be awarded for a 4 year duration at a total cost of £985,200 to be met from the local bus budget, with an option to extend for 2 further years in annual increments subject to further approval from the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

Recommendations

2. That approval be given to award bus subsidy contracts in the Fareham and Gosport area to First Hampshire and Dorset Ltd of an annual value of £213,909 funded from the Local Bus Budget for a period of 4 years commencing on 5 January 2020 at a total value of £855,636, with the option to extend up to a maximum of 6 years subject to further approval from the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.
3. That approval be given to award a bus subsidy contract in the Alton/Alresford area to Stagecoach (South) Ltd of an annual value of £15,396 funded from the Local Bus Budget for a period of 4 years commencing on 22 April 2020 at a total value of £61,584, with the option to extend up to a maximum of 6 years subject to further approval from the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.
4. That approval be given to award a bus subsidy contract in the Alton/Alresford area to Cresta Coaches of an annual value of £16,995 funded from the Local Bus Budget for a period of 4 years commencing on 22 April 2020 at a total value of £67,980 with the option to extend up to a maximum of 6 years subject to further approval from the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

Executive Summary

5. This paper seeks to propose a course of action to ensure that transport services continue to support access to work, education, retail, and health for the widest section of the community, thereby supporting quality of life and wellbeing while achieving value for money.
6. The proposed tenders retain a similar pattern of service to that currently provided within the existing budget and take account of any known changes to the commercial network.

Contextual information

7. The 2018 Passenger Transport Review, approved at the Executive Member for Environment and Transport Decision Day of 29 October 2018, retained subsidised bus services across Hampshire, albeit to reduced timetables in line with the lower funding levels available.
8. The review set the direction for future tendering exercises with the aim to maintain existing levels of service.
9. Where services were re-negotiated as part of the review it was within their existing contracts rather than through a re-tendering process.
10. Fareham and Gosport Services
 - the present contracts for subsidised bus services 11, 20, 21 and 28 in the Fareham and Gosport area were re-negotiated as part of the 2018 Passenger Transport Review but expire on 4 January 2020, so are due for retendering;
 - the present contracts in Fareham and Gosport are held by First;
 - tenders were issued on the Public Bus Dynamic Purchasing System and four operators submitted bids; and
 - the submitted bids were evaluated 100% on price.
11. Alton/Alresford Services
 - a. the present contracts for subsidised bus services 206/208 and 240 were not re-negotiated as part of the 2018 Passenger Transport review due to their relative low value. These contracts expire on 21 April 2020 so are due for retendering;
 - b. the present contracts in the Alton/Alresford area are held by Cresta Coaches;
 - c. tenders were issued on the Public Bus Dynamic Purchasing System and three operators submitted bids; and
 - d. the submitted bids were evaluated 100% on price.

Finance

12. The contract costs can be found in the table below:

i. Fareham and Gosport

Area	Service	Existing cost per annum	Proposed cost per annum
Fareham and Gosport	11*	£35,250	£33,142
	20	£66,350	£64,824
	21	£39,500	£44,301
	28	£73,000	£71,642
Total		£214,100	£213,909

* The prices detailed in the table represent the cost to Hampshire County Council for the provision of this service. Currently Gosport Borough Council contribute an additional £3,500pa. The cost to Gosport Borough Council would be £5,221pa for the proposed new contract.

ii. Alton / Alresford

Area	Service	Existing cost per annum	Proposed cost per annum
Alton / Alresford	206/208	£16,693	£16,995
	240	£14,372	£15,396
Total		£31,065	£32,391

13. The costs for the proposed contracts will be met wholly from the local bus budget.

14. The Saturday and Sunday 11 service is currently procured by Hampshire County Council and funded by Gosport Borough Council. It is anticipated that this arrangement will continue into the proposed new contract.

Performance

15. The proposed tenders provide services to the areas specified within affordable budget levels and offer the same level of service as is currently provided.

16. Prior to tenders being invited, services were surveyed to ensure that value for money criteria are being met. The options proposed meet value for money criteria and provide a service to the widest area within an affordable budget.

Consultation and Equalities

17. The proposed tenders follow the direction established in the Passenger Transport Review 2018.

18. As part of this review, an extensive consultation was undertaken, the results of which are attached as Appendix 1, and can be found at [this link](#).

Conclusion

19. The proposed approach achieves the key aim of the 2018 Passenger Transport Review, as with previous reviews in 2011 and 2014, that any community which currently has a transport service will retain an essential transport link.
20. This decision seeks approval to award the contracts identified within this report, to allow for contracts to be in place for 5 January 2020 for the services in the Fareham and Gosport area and 22 April 2020 for the services in the Alton / Alresford area to ensure continuity of service.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

There is no change to the level of service provided by these bus services therefore the proposed new contracts will have a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics.