

Report To: Education & Lifelong Learning Committee **Date:** 15 March 2011

Report By: Corporate Director Education and Communities **Report No:** EDUC/22/11/AE

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Subject: Use of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) for Transport Services to Education 2011 - 14

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Committee to continue the service of SPT who provide agency arrangements in relation to the transport of pupils.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides the background to the request to continue the agency arrangement which has been in place since Inverclyde Council began in 1996.
- 2.2 SPT and Inverclyde Council Education Service have a duty to co-operate with one another to secure the best value for money from expenditure relating to transport for appropriate pupils.
- 2.3 Due to the nature of the provision of school transport, SPT acts as the agent for 12 member Councils, including Inverclyde Council. The arrangement covers advertising, awarding, monitoring and ensuring efficient performance of Council contracts.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to approve the continued use of SPT acting as agent in matters relating to school transport covering the 3 years 2011 – 14.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director of Education and Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Under Section 88 of the Transport Act 1985, SPT and the Council as the Education Authority have a duty to co-operate to secure the best value for money from expenditure on transport.
- 4.2 SPT has provided information and support to Inverclyde Council since 1996. A signed agreement between the Council and SPT sets out the respective roles and responsibilities of the partners.
- 4.3 In effect, SPT act on the instructions provided by Inverclyde Council. The authority provides the specification for each contract due for renewal. The value of these contracts managed by SPT is approximately £ 1.3 m.
- 4.4 SPT is responsible for the tendering process; recommending operators to be awarded contracts; the day-to-day operation of those contracts; compliance of contractual conditions by the operator; inspection of operator vehicles and appropriate paperwork; monitoring complaints; regular liaison with officers of Inverclyde Council.
- 4.5 Officers responsible for this expenditure make certain of the best deal for Inverclyde Council by ensuring quality, efficiency and value for money in all transactions.
- 4.6 The provision of this function plays a vital part in supporting the Education Service in delivering its responsibility to provide transport in terms of our policy on school transport.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance : All expenditure will be contained within budget.

5.2

Cost Centres	Budget Heading	Annual Cost	Agency	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
Transport	Mainstream and ASN	£41k		N/A	Funded from SPT budget

- 5.3 HR : There are no HR issues.
- 5.4 Legal : Legal and Democratic Services are being consulted in the terms of the agreement.
- 5.5 Equalities : Equality is embedded in our transport process.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Council's procurement team.
- 6.2 Legal and Democratic Services will approve the terms of the agreement before signature.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The proposals outlined above will ensure the continued smooth operation of Inverclyde Council's transport arrangements.