
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	24 January 2012
Report By:	Corporate Director Education & Communities	Report No:	EDUC/07/12/AE
Contact Officer:	Angela Edwards	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	Permission to seek tenders for the provision of School Transport		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Committee to procure transport services with a value greater than £250,000.
- 1.2 There is a need to procure transport for pupils with additional support needs in school sessions 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15; to procure transport for consortium, vocational and miscellaneous purposes in school sessions 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15; and up to 4 years for the rolling programme of mainstream transport contracts.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Pupil transport is required for pupils with additional support needs and/or medical conditions to allow them to attend the appropriate school or establishment that meets their educational needs. The anticipated annual cost of this transport is £589k.
- 2.2 Transport is required for consortium and vocational courses which allow pupils to study subjects not available at their own secondary school by undertaking a course at another establishment. Additionally, there are various occasions when transport is required for pupils eg sport activities, events, unforeseen requirements. The anticipated annual costs will be £150k.
- 2.3 A phasing of transport contracts for mainstream pupils is in place. 15 of the 59 contracts will therefore be due for renewal for the start of the next school session with an estimated value of £275k.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to grant authority to the Corporate Director Education and Communities to seek tenders for:
 - a) transport services for pupils with additional support needs and/or medical conditions for school sessions 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.
 - b) transport services for consortium, vocational and miscellaneous purposes for school sessions 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.
 - c) transport services for mainstream pupils for up to 4 years in line with the rolling programme of contracts.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director Education & Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Within the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, certain ASN pupils attending special schools, units and mainstream schools are required to be transported to and from school by Inverclyde Council. Where transport cannot be provided using Inverclyde Council's Internal Transport fleet, contracts will be offered to external operators.
- 4.2 Transport is required to take pupils studying courses not available at their own secondary school to undertake study at other establishments.
- 4.3 With sporting activities, events and miscellaneous circumstances, transport is required for groups of pupils.
- 4.4 Transport is also required for mainstream pupils entitled by Inverclyde Council's policy on the provision of school transport. Contracts are normally awarded for a four-year period, however, SPT are currently phasing contracts with the intention of tying dates in with existing contracts at each specific school/area for improved future planning. The result of this is that a mix of 2, 3 and 4 year contracts will be awarded this year.
- 4.5 Like most other authorities in the former Strathclyde area, Inverclyde Council has an agency agreement with SPT to conduct the procurement process, including evaluation of tenders received, on the Council's behalf. Recommendations for the award of contracts will be provided to us by SPT.
- 4.6 Officers within SPT responsible for this expenditure make certain of the best deal for Inverclyde Council by ensuring quality, efficiency and value for money in all transactions.
- 4.7 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 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that SPT complete the tendering process for transport requirements in Education Services as part of its Agency Agreement with Inverclyde Council.
- 5.2 Proposed annual expenditure for ASN / medical transport will be approximately £589,000. The cost will be contained within the overall budget for transport.
- 5.3 It is proposed that tenders be sought for consortium, vocational and miscellaneous transport. Based on estimates from current usage, expenditure which will be contained within budget, will be approximately £128,000.
- 5.4 Proposed annual expenditure for mainstream contracts due for renewal from the school session 2012/13 will be approximately £275,000. This will be contained within budget.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.2	Cost Centres	Budget Heading	Annual Cost	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
	Transport	ASN, Consortium, Vocational, Miscellaneous, Mainstream	£992,000	N/A	

6.3 HR : None.

6.4 Legal : None.

6.5 Equalities : Equality is embedded in our transport process.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Continued consultation will take place with the Council's procurement team.

7.2 Legal and Democratic Services will be included prior to the award of contracts.

7.3 Officers from Internal Transport have been involved in the review of contracts to be tendered.

8.0 CONCLUSION

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