



Proposed renewal of subsidised local bus service contracts

Committee Operations

Date of meeting 13 May 2016

Date of report 5 May 2016

Report by Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

1. Object of report

To recommend the Committee approves the award of a contract for the renewal of subsidised local bus services.

This paper affects East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City council areas.

2. Background

SPT subsidises bus services not provided by the commercial market but which are considered socially necessary in accordance with adopted guidelines.

The services in question in this instance are cross-boundary services which are tendered and managed by Stirling Council, with SPT making a contribution based on a pro-rata mileage formula.

This report details the results of the tenders received and the recommended action.

3. Outline of proposals

Copies of all timetables are available on request.

(a) Balfron - Drymen - Milngavie - Glasgow (service C8) Balfron - Strathblane - Milngavie - Glasgow (service C10)

SPT contributes financially to cross-boundary services C8 and C10, which are administered contractually by Stirling Council. Service C8 provides Monday to Friday peak time return journeys, in addition to three return journeys on a Saturday, between Balfron and Glasgow via Drymen and Milngavie, until 30 July 2016. Service C10 provides Monday to Saturday evening journeys between Balfron and Glasgow via Strathblane and Milngavie until 30 July 2016.

SPT currently contribute £22,521 per annum, equal to 46.20% of contract S12/B/08 under which service C8 is provided, and £26,021 per annum, equal to 27.50% of contract S12/B/10-12w, under which service C10 is delivered.

Stirling Council invited tenders for the replacement of the current contracts for these services, and also alternative timetable specifications.

Midland Bluebird submitted the best value tender bid for the replacement of the current contract for service C10, maintaining the existing timetable at a cost of £215,760, for the contract period 1 August 2016 until 1 August 2020.

Stirling Council has therefore requested an annual contribution from SPT of £26,841 per annum, representing an increase of £820 per annum against the present annual contribution.

Stirling Council has taken the decision to withdraw service C8, replacing it with a Demand Responsive Transport alternative, serving affected areas within its own boundaries. The withdrawal of service C8 would require no replacement by SPT, as the majority of the existing route is within walking distance to alternative services and the population of the small area with no alternative fixed route service, (i.e. between the East Dunbartonshire/Stirling Council area boundary and Craigton village area, Milngavie), has access to existing MyBus Rural service 850, which satisfies SPT guideline criteria.

It is therefore recommended that an annual contribution of £26,841 is made to Stirling Council contract S16/C10a, an increase of £820 per annum; and that no action is taken to replace the withdrawn service C8, which represents a saving of £22,521 per annum.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to agree to:

- (a) an annual contribution of £26,841 to Stirling Council contract S16/C10a (service C10) for the contract period 1 August 2016 until 1 August 2020; and no action is taken to replace withdrawn service C8.

It should be noted that the award of the contract[s] is subject to satisfaction of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period for EU advertised public sector contracts.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences: *In line with Regional Transport Strategy.*

Legal consequences: *Funding for service C10 shall be subject to an appropriate agreement with Stirling Council.*

Financial consequences: *The renewal of the contracts detailed in the committee paper will result in savings of £14,467 in 2016/17.*

Personnel consequences: *None.*

Equalities consequences: *Seeks to reduce the incidence of social exclusion by supporting socially necessary services.*

Risk consequences: *None.*

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Gordon Maclennan
Chief Executive

for further information please contact Alex Scott, Bus Services Manager on ext 3388