

Education Transport Contracts

To: Children and Young People's Committee

Meeting Date: 17 May 2022

From: Charlotte Black - Executive Director: People & Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: KD2022/065

Outcome: Approval to let education transport contracts for the current procurement round of special and mainstream routes to enable transport arrangements to be put in place to be implemented in September 2022.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Approve the letting of special and mainstream school and child social care transport contracts current procurement round.
- b) Delegate authority to the Director of Education, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Committee, to finalise the subsequent award of those contracts.
- c) Endorse the proposal for officers, in future, to bring an annual key decision report to the Committee setting out the transport contracts to be renewed in the coming year for committee approval.

Voting: Co-opted members of the Committee are eligible to vote on this item.

Officer contact:

Name: Clare Buckingham

Post: Strategic Education Place Planning Manager

Email: clare.buckingham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01223 699779

Member contacts:

Names: Councillors Bryony Goodliffe and Maria King

Post: Chair/Vice-Chair

Email: bryony.goodliffe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk maria.king@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01223 706398 (office)

1. Background

- 1.1 Annually the Social & Education Transport Team (SETT) undertakes a procurement round of approximately one third of all the 1200 home to school transport routes. This equates, each year, to approximately 180 mainstream and 225 contracts for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The values mentioned in the report cover year 1 only but all contracts have an automatic potential 2-year extension. The procurement process for most of the routes mentioned in the report has started.
- 1.2 During 2020, Officers from SETT, Peterborough City Council's (PCC) Passenger Transport Operations Team (PTOT), the Council's Transformation Team and Procurement Team, started a project to align transport procurement, terms, and conditions into a joint Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). The aim is to ensure maximum utilisation of transport providers and efficiencies in a single process. This was launched to operators in October 2021 and initial competitions began in January 2022.
- 1.3 The routes to be procured for September 2022 are listed in **Appendix 1**. The cumulative value of those contracts will exceed £500k. The estimated annual cost of the mainstream element of the competition package is £4.26m (contractual cost £19.59m excluding extension opportunity). The estimated annual cost of the SEND element is £7.4m (contractual cost £28.26m). The actual individual contract costs will vary depending on whether they are tendered to last for 2,3,4 or 5 years.
- 1.4 In addition to the mainstream and special routes listed in Appendix 1 a large volume of 'ad hoc' competitions will follow in the coming months which will include social access routes, late applications and sixth form centres, resolving any issues or hand backs from operators and new in-year applications. **Appendix 2** lists the 'ad hoc' tender figures by month for the financial year 2012/22 by way of illustration. Those totalled 1,566.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Because of the number of contracts involved (at least 400 new/ renewed contracts each year) it is not practical for officers to seek individual authorisation from Committee for each one. Officers are, therefore, proposing a process that is practical to implement from an officer perspective but is also fully open and transparent, seeking:
 - the Committee's approval to let those contracts listed in **Appendix 1** procured through the Council's DPS and
 - delegated authority to the Director of Education to finalise the subsequent award of those contracts in consultation with the chair and vice chair of CYP .
- 2.2 Once the contracts have been authorised, the Director would complete an 'Openness Form' to confirm the process has been completed which would then be forwarded to Democratic Services with a request that this is published on the Council's website.
- 2.3 In future years officers will bring an annual key decision report to the Committee, ideally in January, and certainly no later than March, setting out the transport contracts to be renewed in the coming year for committee approval. In the event of any material increases in costs or politically sensitive contracts, officers would raise these with Spokes

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Environment and Sustainability

At the time of setting up the DPS exclusive provision of low carbon vehicles was not an option that market was able to deliver, as such the vehicles used remain fossil fuel based for the time being. However, through providing the transport services the council is able reduce environmental impacts by shifting travel out of individual vehicles and into mass-transit options, which can improve carbon and air quality outcomes.

3.2 Health and Care

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 Places and Communities

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.4 Children and Young People

Provision of reliable school transport services will help safeguard children and young people on their journey between home and their place of education.

3.5 Transport

Reliable school transport services enable children and young people to easily access their education entitlement.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report sets out details of significant implications in paragraph 1.3 above and also in **Appendix 1**.

The transport sector generally has been in turmoil post pandemic which poses risks for the Council in fulfilling its statutory duties in relation to education transport. Particular challenges relate to a nationwide shortage of drivers and rising fuel costs which have resulted in operators handing back contracts to the Council which they are no longer able to fulfil. When these have been re-tendered they have resulted in increased prices.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The report above sets out details of significant implications. The routes listed will be procured through the Council's DPS

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The legal parameters relating to home to school/college transport for children and young people of statutory school age are set out in Sections 508, 509 and schedule 35B of the 1996 Education Act as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Sections 509(1) and (2) place a duty upon local authorities to provide free transport where necessary to facilitate the attendance of children and students at schools and institutions both within and outside of the further and higher education sectors.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Prevention of rural isolation from education provision.
- Education transport is provided to all who are entitled under the Education Act 1996 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas (See further guidance in Appendix 2):

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Neutral Status: there are no significant implications within this category

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Positive Status: Section 3.1 and the following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

Explanation:

- Home to school transport reduces the use of private vehicles in delivery of transport to large numbers of students on single transport provisions
- Where school transport is in place there is the opportunity for students to purchase spare seats.
- Where there is public transport provision in place students who meet the eligibility criteria can receive transport assistance in the form of a pass to use on a commercial route

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

Neutral Status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Neutral Status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:

Neutral Status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Neutral Status:

Explanation: The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Reduced use of private vehicles through provision of alternatives, particularly mass transit options

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Neutral Status:

Explanation: There are no significant implications within this category

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement? Yes

Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? No

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Jonathan Lewis

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? Yes

Name of Officer: Karen Newton

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Jonathan Lewis

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health? Yes

Name of Officer: Iain Green (Team Manager Health in all Policies)

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer? Yes

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 None

6. Accessibility

- 6.1 Accessible versions of the tables contained within the appendices can be obtained on request from the report author.

List of routes to be procured for implementation in September 2022.

Mainstream:

(1) 139 routes in competition 1 for various schools (see table below) – estimated annual cost £4,265,809. Contractual cost £19,589,986 excluding extension opportunity

(2) Maximum award of 11 routes in competition 2 for Witchford Village College only– estimated annual cost £152,000, contractual cost £760,000 excluding extension opportunity

Note: there is an automatic contract extension of 2 years under the DPS. Therefore, what starts as a seemingly low value procurement, for example 5 routes at £35,000, actually has a potential value of £525,000 and is therefore over the key decision threshold.

Competition 1

Row Labels	Count of CONTRACT NO	Sum of DAILY COST (£)	Sum of Contractual (£)
Abbey College	1	59.88	45508.8
Abbotts Ripton Primary	1	208	197600
Alconbury Church of England Primary	1	54	51300
Alderman Payne Primary	1	45	42750
Baranbas Oley Primary	1	171	162450
Bassingbourn Primary	1	92	17480
Borrowmoor Primary	1	105	99750
Bottisham Village College	1	298	113240
Bourn Primary	2	363.52	345344
Brampton Primary	1	54	20520
Brington Primary	2	394.49	374765.5
Buckden Primary	1	163	154850
Coates Primary	1	78	74100
College of West Anglia, Kings Lynn Campus	1	425	403750
College of West Anglia, Wisbech Campus	1	360	342000
Comberton Village College	9	2262.5	2149375
Comberton Village College	1	280	266000
Comberton Village College and Barton primary	1	263	249850
Comberton Village College and Caldecote Primary	1	69	65550
Comberton Village College and Haslingfield Primary	1	203	192850
Comberton Village College and Meridan Primary	1	279	265050
Cottenham Village College	1	50	19000
Cromwell Community College	4	397	197790
Duke of Bedford Primary	1	35	6650
Elsworth Primary	1	190	180500
Elton Primary	1	229	217550
Ely College	3	483.06	458907

Row Labels	Count of CONTRACT NO	Sum of DAILY COST (£)	Sum of Contractual (£)
Ely College and Downham Foeffes Primary	1	318	302100
Ely College and Pymoor	1	160	152000
Farcet Primary	1	28	10640
Friday Bridge Primary	1	44.7	42465
Gamlingay Villagae College	1	79	45030
Great Abington Primary	1	45	17100
Great Gidding Primary	1	254.9	242155
Great Staughton Primary	1	165	156750
Great Wilbraham Primary	1	130	74100
Guyhirn Primary	1	177.5	168625
Hemingford Grey Primary	1	100	95000
Hinchingbrooke Academy	6	1602.22	1522109
Histon and Impington Park and Histon and Impington Brook Primary	1	114.8	65436
Holme Primary	2	94	26220
Holywell Primary	1	79	75050
Huntingdon Primary	1	44	25080
Isleham Primary	1	195	185250
Kinderley Primary	1	67.5	38475
Leverington Primary	1	50	47500
Linton Village College, Linton Heights Juniors and Linton Infants	1	90	34200
Littleport and East Cambs Academy	4	478.75	454812.5
Littleport Primary and Millifield Primary	2	306.16	290852
Longsands Academy	5	1032	980400
Longsands Academy and Ernulf Academy	1	173	164350
Manea Primary	1	130	123500
Mayfield Primary	1	68.9	65455
Melbourn Village College	1	95	36100
Milton Primary	1	89	33820
Nassington Primary	1	49.5	9405
Neale-Wade Academy	7	1200.37	981701.5
New Road Primary	1	66	62700
Newton Primary	1	229	217550
Northstowe Academy	1	94	53580
Ramsey Junior and Spinning Infants	1	92	69920
Robert Arkenstall Primary	1	102	96900
Sawtry Village Academy	7	1593.2	1513540
Sir Harry Smith	1	57.08	54226
Soham Village College	8	1422.45	1351327.5
Spaldwick Primary	1	228.49	217065.5
Spring Meadow Infants and Ely St Marys Junior	1	208	197600
St Andrews Primary	1	190	180500
St Ivo Academy	5	989	939550
St Peters School	3	502	476900
Stanground Academy	2	171	134520

Row Labels	Count of CONTRACT NO	Sum of DAILY COST (£)	Sum of Contractual (£)
Stilton Church of England Primary	1	50	47500
Stretham Primary	1	121.49	115415.5
Swavesey Primary	1	59	33630
Swavesey Village College	1	178.07	33833.3
Teversham Primary	1	45	25650
The Weatheralls Primary	2	172	163400
Thomas Clarkson Academy	2	439	182020
Townley Primary	1	110	104500
Trumpington Park Primary	1	127.1	72447
University Academy, Long Sutton	1	80	15200
Wilburton Primary	1	53	50350
Grand Total	139	22,451.63	19,589,986.1

SEND – 303 potential routes to be tendered – annual cost: £7,391,079.80

Estimated Contractual cost £28,264,736.30 based on full time frequency (5 days per week) and 5-year contract.

Row Labels	Count of CONTRACT NO	Sum of Annual (£)	Sum of Contractual (£)
Cherry Hinton P S	1	24320	121600
Gretton School	29	557923.6	1757900.9
Grove P S	1	16910	84550
Heathlands/Knightsfield	1	29450	58900
Mayfield Hearing Unit	2	49215.7	246078.5
North Cambridge Academy	1	7410	37050
Park House School	5	87780	363280
Red Balloon Cambridge	5	86735	156655
St Albans R C	1	14833.3	74166.5
Ashbeach P S	1	18810	94050
Bassingbourn V C	1	16910	84550
Brandles & Hitchin Girls School	1	33991	101973
Bridge House School	1	39710	198550
Cambian Wisbech	2	64220	321100
Cambourne V C	1	22800	114000
Cambourne VC	1	19570	97850
Cambridge to Melbourn The Cabin	2	33440	167200
Castle School	29	792803.5	3942927.5
Coates Primary	1	20520	102600
Coleridge CC	1	11210	56050
Colville SLU	1	18620	93100
Colville Sp and Language	2	46721	233605
Cottenham Hearing Centre	3	86843.3	270789.9
Equine	1	30210	151050
Equine/Woodventures	1	14060	14060

Row Labels	Count of CONTRACT NO	Sum of Annual (£)	Sum of Contractual (£)
Esland Isaac School	1	37810	151240
Farm Club	2	52801	52801
Gamlingay The Cabin	2	56981	284905
Granta School	22	701234.9	3506174.5
Guilden Morden P	1	23750	118750
Haslingfield P S	1	33630	168150
Heltwate School	1	15200	76000
Highfield Ely Academy	23	627917.7	3139588.5
Highfield Ely LINC 19-25	1	24700	123500
Highfield Littleport Academy	7	224865	557460
Hinchingbrooke School	1	12540	62700
Holme Court School	5	82283.3	174256.6
Huntingdon to St Neots	1	22800	22800
Impington Village College	2	51915.6	259578
Isaac Newton	1	31920	63840
Isle of Ely P	1	28500	142500
Landmark International	1	7410	37050
Martin Bacon Academy	13	359195	718390
Mashfields School	3	74765	134995
Meadowgate School	15	405600.6	2028003
Medeshamstede Academy	5	107920	489630
Olive AP Academy	1	11590	23180
On Track, Mildenhall	1	22990	45980
Ramsey J	1	18050	90250
Riverside Meadows - Fenland	8	171682.1	171682.1
Riverside Meadows - St Neots	12	300502.1	856523.8
Samuel Pepys	2	53390	266950
Spring Common	10	339936.6	1699683
Spring Meadow I A U	1	18620	93100
St Bedes	1	12350	61750
St Ivo School	1	17022.1	85110.5
St Peter's School	4	72200	361000
The Centre School	28	547931.5	1552537.5
The Harbour School	16	389431.6	778863.2
The Place	1	31933.3	31933.3
The Shires	1	22800	45600
Thomas Clarkson	1	13585	67925
Townley P S	1	19000	95000
White Trees School	1	22610	67830
Wilds Lodge	4	106210	443650
Witchford VC	4	70490	170240
Grand Total	303	7,391,079.8	28,264,736.3

Tendering figures for 'ad hoc' routes in 2021/22

88 routes tendered in May

89 in June

104 in July

382 in August

332 in September

168 in October

136 in November

141 in December

126 in January