

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: AWARD OF A CONTRACT WITH A VALUE OF OVER £350,000 -
PROVISION OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT**
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 2 JUNE 2009
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the granting of a contract for the provision of schools transport with a cumulative value of over £350,000.
- 1.2 This contract is for school children traveling from the Denny area to St. Modan's High School, Stirling.
- 1.3 This transport is currently provided by First Scotland East Ltd.

2. DETAIL

- 2.1 The existing arrangement where the Council purchased season tickets has been in place for a number of years. This arrangement involved pupils traveling on commercial services using their season tickets with the cost of the fares being reimbursed to First. Recently the Transport Planning Unit identified that the cost of procuring these season tickets was increasing at a faster rate than other contracts which had been framed differently. The current cost of these season tickets is approximately £140,000 p.a.
- 2.2 It was thought appropriate to test whether or not the service could be provided more cheaply by means of procuring a contract bus service and tenders were issued to this end.
- 2.3 Eight tenders were received and, after the evaluation of the submitted tenders, it is recommended to award the contract to First at an annual cost of £120,840 (see appendix 1). The tenders were evaluated on cost and quality factors and the submission from First was both the lowest cost and scored highest on quality and, as such, represents best value to the Council. The cumulative cost of the four year contract will be £483,360.

3. POLICY, PERSONNEL, LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The recommended contract complies with Falkirk Council's education transport policy for the procurement of school transport services.
- 3.2 The result of this tender process will be a reduction in the cost of providing this particular school service. The cost of this contract can be accommodated within existing Education Services' transport budgets.

3.3 There are no legal or personnel implications.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee approve the award of this contract for school transport at £120,840 p.a., a cumulative value of £483,360 (plus an annual inflation element linked to the Retail Price Index, as per conditions of contract).

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Director of Development Services

Date: 25 May 2009

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Appendix 1 – Mainstream School Bus Services 2009- Contracts over the value of £350,000.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil