

Report

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Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Notification of Contracts Awarded 2011 and Future Tendering for Mainstream Secondary Transport
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide notification to Committee of contracts awarded by Education Resources; and
- ◆ seek approval for the proposal to introduce a requirement for seatbelts on secondary school mainstream transport contracts.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the details of the contracts awarded by Education Resources during the period April 2011 to August 2011, as detailed in Appendix A, be noted; and
- (2) that the proposal to change the tender specification for mainstream secondary school contracts to include a requirement for seatbelts when mainstream contracts become due for renewal be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. It is a requirement of Standing Orders on Contracts (paragraph 20.7) that Committee is notified of contracts awarded. The contracts awarded by Education Resources during the period April 2011 to August 2011 for mainstream to home school transport and piano tuning are highlighted in appendix A.
- 3.2. In terms of mainstream school transport South Lanarkshire Council currently operates a transport policy of single deck vehicles and seatbelts for all primary school contracts. While the current transport policy for secondary school vehicles meets legislative requirements it does not require contractors to provide buses with seatbelts.
- 3.3. The Council renews approximately one third of its transport contracts every year on a rolling basis. Some contracts can be for one, two, three or four years dependent on the best value criteria for the Council. During the last school session (2010/11), there were 134 transport contracts including taxis, people carriers, mini buses, coaches and double decked buses transporting children to secondary school. Of these contracts 8 were service bus contracts, 96 included seatbelts and 30 contracts did not have seatbelts.

4. Proposals

- 4.1. The Education Resources Committee is asked to note the summary of new contracts effective from June 2011 set out within appendix A.
- 4.2. It is proposed that the specification for mainstream secondary school contracts be changed to include a requirement for seatbelts, except where the home to school transport is provided on a service bus. It is further proposed that this change be introduced as mainstream contracts become due for renewal.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The costs associated with the contracts notified within this report will be met from existing resources.
- 6.2. An initial exercise undertaken in January 2011 to assess the possible cost implications of the proposal to introduce seatbelts indicated cost estimate of around £100,000, although it should be noted that the final costs cannot be confirmed until the outcome of each tendering round is known.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The proposal to include a requirement for seatbelts in mainstream secondary school transport contracts is designed to mitigate against the risk to young people.
- 7.2. In line with the Council's sustainable development strategy and through the tender process cognisance has been given to work with contractors to reduce carbon emission.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the contracts awarded during the period April 2011 to August 2011. However, arrangements will be made to conduct an impact assessment if recommendation 2.2 is approved.
- 8.2. Consultation arrangements were taken forward through the tender process in line with the Council's standing orders. Appropriate consultation has taken place with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport on the proposal to require seatbelts on secondary age contracts.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

26 July 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Raise Educational Attainment for All
- Learning in the Community.

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- Standing Orders on Contracts.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Sara Fellows, Head of Education (Resources)

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Education Resources

Project	Contract / Contractors	Value	Effective Date	Period of Contract
Mainstream Home to School Transport	77 Contracts / 39 Contractors	£1.301m	August 2011	1 - 4 years
Tuning and maintenance of Pianos	1 Contract(or)	£0.120m	June 2011	3 years