

# Finance and Resources Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 18 August 2016

## Contract Award under Urgency Procedure – Edinburgh Schools - School Transport

Item number	7.22
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	City Centre

### Executive summary

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Following the recent temporary closure of the 17 affected PPP schools, alternative transportation arrangements for children at those schools was required to be put in place urgently.

This report is to advise Committee of the action taken to award temporary contracts to a number of transport operators for the provision of emergency school transport to alternative premises under urgency powers.

### Links

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Coalition pledges	P8, P48
Council outcomes	CO19
Single Outcome Agreement	S04

## Contract Award under Urgency Procedure – Edinburgh Schools - School Transport

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the action taken to award temporary contracts for the provision of emergency school transport for children as a result of the closure of the affected PPP1 schools under the Urgency Procedure paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions.

### Background

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- 2.1 As a result of a wall collapse at Oxfords Primary in January 2016, structural issues were identified at schools built under the Public Private Partnership programme (“PPP1”) in Edinburgh between 2002 and 2005. The structural defects relating to wall header ties (ties which connect the top of walls to roof structures) which were identified across PPP1 schools led to the schools being closed from 8 April, with approximately 7,600 primary and secondary and 740 nursery pupils affected.
- 2.2 All schools are scheduled to be re-opened for the start of the Autumn term.

### Main report

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- 3.1 The temporary closure of the 17 affected schools required arrangements to be urgently put into place to provide alternative accommodation and transportation. It was a major logistical exercise for the Council requiring the use of over 70 buses for pupils, 61 alternative schools (including nurseries and Early Years Centres) and relocation of 655 teachers.
- 3.2 The Council’s current contracts for transportation were unable to meet the urgent additional requirements in addition to existing provision. This meant that alternative providers were required. The table in 3.4 below sets out the details of the providers not on the Council’s current transportation framework who were able to provide additional transportation at short notice.
- 3.3 Council Director’s may approve spend on the provision of services up to a value of £1million. Committee approval is required for spend in excess of £1million. In anticipation of transportation costs exceeding £1million, urgency powers to authorise this expenditure were sought and granted by the Convenor and Vice Convenor of this Committee on Wednesday 22 June. The urgency procedure under 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions states that: ‘If a decision which would normally be made by a Committee requires to be

made urgently between meetings of the Committee, the Chief Executive or appropriate Director, in consultation with the Convener or Vice-Convener, may take action, subject to the matter being reported to the next Committee.

- 3.4 Details of estimated transport costs arising from the closure of the schools are as follows:

Contract Start Date	Contract End Date (excluding extensions)	Actual Contract Value	Providers
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£95,310	AAA Coaches
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£295,840	Parks of Hamilton
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£73,625	Mearns Exclusive Travel
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£38,650	Grangeburn Ltd
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£103,200	Ace Travel
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£209,327	City Circle UK
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£22,000	Abbot Travel
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£6,270	Edinburgh Coach Lines Ltd
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£13,440	Ladywell Travel
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£18,336	Central Taxis
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£26,220	LA Travel
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£3,240	McKendry Coach Hire
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£12,195	E&M Horsburgh Ltd
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£37,760	Charlie Irons Coaches Ltd
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£156,060	SPT
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£19,950	Sams Travel
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£10,730	Hobson Coaches
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£15,775	H & M Ferguson
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£740	G T Travel
17/03/2016	31/08/2016	£1,497	Prentice Westwood Coaches

**£1,160,165**

- 3.5 The above table provides the anticipated spend for the provision of emergency transport services for the required period. In some cases figures are estimated as final invoices have yet to be received.
- 3.6 The transportation costs will be offset by the reduction in monthly payments made under the Unitary charge to the schools PPP partnership.

## Measures of success

- 4.1 The Council successfully procures transport to relocate all decanted pupils and staff with minimal interruption.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 The estimated costs for transportation arising from the school decant is £1,160,165. The transportation costs will be offset by the reduction in monthly payments made under the Unitary Charge to the schools PPP partnership.
- 5.2 There were no procurement costs associated with procuring these temporary contracts.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 The risks of disruption to education particularly for those about to sit exams and the disruption to parents were mitigated as quickly as possible and those risks have now been addressed.

## Equalities impact

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- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 The increase in air pollution due to increased transportation by coach or taxi was kept to a minimum for the duration of the required decant.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Parents, Elected Members, the Scottish Government and various other interested parties have been kept apprised of all developments throughout.

## Background reading/external references

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None.

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### **Links**

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**Coalition pledges**

**Council outcomes**

**Single Outcome Agreement**

