

# Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 23 January 2018

## Bus Tracker – Temporary Consultancy Assistance

<b>Item number</b>	8.6
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	Routine
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Council Commitments</b>	<a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">18</a> and <a href="#">19</a>

### Executive Summary

---

The existing Bus Tracker contract with Cofely Ineo has expired but has continued to operate under the terms of the original contract. Atkins Global were appointed in April 2017 to assist the City of Edinburgh Council's Public Transport Team in carrying out a full system audit of the Bus Tracker system and developing an options appraisal for the future strategy. Atkins Global has specialist system knowledge within this field of technology and have performed well to date. Their continued assistance will help to ensure that a suitable new Bustracker system is delivered; one that is fit for purpose, allows future enhancement and is delivered at best value.

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Committee approves a waiver at a value of approximately £8,000. This payment will extend the current contract with Atkins Global for their assistance in the preparation of tender material.

## Bus Tracker – Temporary Consultancy Assistance

### 1. Recommendations

---

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee approve the extension of the commission from Atkins Global consultancy services to assist the Council modernise the Bustracker and Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI).

### 2. Background

---

- 2.1 In April 2017 Atkins Global consultancy services were appointed to assist the Council and Lothian Buses review the options for modernising the city's Bustracker and Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) systems.
- 2.2 Bus tracker has operated as a joint partnership between the Council and Lothian Buses since 2004. It provides real time information on bus arrival and departures in the city through a variety of media. Parts of the system are beyond their design life and cannot be effectively maintained in their current state much longer.
- 2.3 Atkins Global has carried out a full system audit of the RTPI system and have provided a future options appraisal. A soft market testing exercise indicates significant potential for cost savings. They have also assessed the bus station information system, which is also at the end of its design life. The replacement of both systems with one procurement strategy is thought to be the best solution.
- 2.4 The results of the option appraisal and the strategy for procuring a supplier to develop new system architecture and design for a modernised RTPI system and a new bus station information system will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee in March 2018.

### 3. Main report

---

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to seek committee approval to extend the current commission to Atkins Global to assist in the preparation of tender documentation in advance of procurement.
- 3.2 In addition to technical expertise and market understanding, Atkins Global have developed an excellent understanding of the technical specifications and operating environment of the Council's RTPI and Bus Station systems. It is not likely that any other supplier would be able to provide the insight into the existing systems for a contract of such a small value that Atkins Global have.

- 3.3 Atkins Global will support development of elements within the Bus Station tender pack, including technical specifications, written quality assessment questions and scorer notes, and the schedule of rates. If a scored supplier demonstration is to be included within the quality assessment, Atkins Global will support development of the evaluation criteria and demonstration structure.
- 3.4 It is recommended that committee approve this waiver which will run until the end of March 2018, to allow Atkins Global to continue to assist in the preparation of tender documentation.

#### **4. Measures of success**

---

- 4.1 Delivery of a value for money Content Management System (CMS), RTPPI system and Bus Station Information System with levels of accuracy higher than those of the current systems.
- 4.2 Atkins Global will provide their specialist knowledge throughout the re-procurement of the RTPPI system, whilst upskilling and providing significant transfer of knowledge to Council officers who will be delivering the future contract.

#### **5. Financial impact**

---

- 5.1 A one off payment of approximately £8,000 will be paid to Atkins Global upon completion of the third phase of works.
- 5.2 Costs can be met from the Public Transport budget.
- 5.3 The procurement of new systems will aim to deliver significant savings over the existing ongoing annual system operating and maintenance costs.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

---

- 6.1 As the aggregate value of the commission is £24,000 for the original two phases and £8,000 for the third, the appointment requires committee approval.
- 6.2 The recommendation in this report is consistent with existing policies and aspirations of the Council.
- 6.3 Compliance with the Council's waiver procedure under the Contract Standing Orders enhances transparency and measures of compliance.
- 6.4 Objective PubTrans5 of the current Local Transport Strategy applies to the issues addressed in this report.  
  
PubTrans5: The Council will seek to ensure a good waiting environment at bus stops, including shelter and seating wherever necessary and possible. Relevant and up to date information will be provided.
- 6.5 Without Atkins Global expertise and knowledge there is a risk to the Council of procuring an unsuitable system, or not getting the best value for money.

## 7. Equalities impact

---

- 7.1 Continued provision or enhancement of the quality of life of users through the enhancement of access to employment, educational, leisure and shopping opportunities.
- 7.2 Withdrawing the service would particularly affect vulnerable users who rely on the reassurance provided by accurate RTPI.

## 8. Sustainability impact

---

- 8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered, and the outcomes are summarised below:
  - The proposals in this report will reduce carbon emissions by reducing dependence on transport by private car and encourage public transport use;
  - The proposals in this report will lessen the threat of climate change by making the customer journey more enjoyable on more sustainable public transport;
  - The proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because the system is open to all and promotes the use of sustainable transport; and
  - The proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because of enhancing the quality of life of users through the enhancement of access to employment, educational, leisure and shopping opportunities.
- 8.2 Environmental good stewardship is not considered to impact on the proposals in this report because no natural resources will be used as part of the proposals.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

---

- 9.1 Further consultation with other partners and users will be undertaken where appropriate.

## 10. Background reading/external references

---

- 10.1 None.

### **Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Ewan Kennedy, Service Manager – Roads Network

E-mail: [ewan.kennedy@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:ewan.kennedy@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 3575

## 11. Appendices

---

None.