

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: OUTCOME FROM TENDERING EXERCISE FOR TAXI & PRIVATE CAR HIRE SERVICES
From: HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 20 AUGUST 2008	Ref: DOD/EOC	

1. Purpose of Report

This report seeks Committee approval to implement the outcomes from a tendering exercise for the provision of taxi and private hire services on behalf of Social Work Services.

2. Background

- 2.1. Over the past 5 years there has been a marked increase in the use of taxi and private hire services within Social Work. This increase in use has arisen for a variety of reasons but mainly in response to service users demands for flexible and personalised approaches to providing services. That growth in taxi and private car hire use prompted measures to ensure that service costs, standards and safeguards were managed within a contractual framework.
- 2.2. Committee will recollect a report submitted on 5 June 2007 where approval was given to proceed to open tender for the provision of taxi and private car hire services. The tender covered two main areas of activity, Lot 1 for transporting service users to and from day services for older adults, and, Lot 2, a Framework Agreement for the ad hoc use of taxis and private hire cars by Social Work.
- 2.3. This tendering exercise is a major step towards bringing the use of taxis and private car hires into a contractual framework. Further, the proposed arrangements will ensure the additional safeguards of an enhanced criminal record disclosure will be applied to any driver providing a taxi or private car hire service on behalf of Social Work.
- 2.4. It should be noted that, if approved, the rates and terms agreed for Lot 2 services can form a future basis for widening this exercise out to other Council Services.

3. Tendering process and findings

- 3.1. Having taken advice from Legal Services and Corporate Procurement on the process, both tenders were subsequently advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and an open tendering process was initiated in late February 2008. Fifty-two tenders were issued with fourteen returned. Two of those fourteen submissions were rejected as information provided was inadequate.

- 3.2. Tenderers were invited to submit for either or both Lot 1 (day services) or Lot 2 (ad hoc) provision of taxi and private hire cars.
- 3.3. The tenders were assessed 60/40 on price and quality. With one exception, applicants submitted identical pricing proposals based on the tariffs set by the Licensing Board. As a result the main differentials that arose were in relation to the quality elements of the submissions.
- 3.4. The scorings are outlined in Appendix one.

4. Allocation of Contracts

- 4.1. For Lot 1 the three main day service contracts subject to this tender were located in Airdrie, Bellshill and Wishaw. After clarification Central Cab Company withdrew interest in Lot 1. Consequently it is proposed to award day service contracts to the companies assessed as 2nd equal and 3rd.
- 4.2. On the basis of cost/quality scores it is proposed that the Lot 1 contracts are awarded as follows:
 - Harry Walker Day Service, Airdrie – approximate value £57.5k per annum awarded to Airdrie Taxis
 - Sir John Mann Day Service, Bellshill – approximate value £49.5k per annum awarded to Maxis Taxis
 - Stewarton Day Service, Wishaw – approximate value £78k per annum awarded to United Taxis
- 4.3. It is proposed that all suitable applicants who submitted tenders will be offered an opportunity to participate in a 'mini competition' tendering exercise for the provision of taxis and private car hires for day services in Cumbernauld and Coatbridge.
- 4.4. In relation to Lot 2 it is proposed that all applicants whose tenders were accepted will be approved to provide ad hoc services on behalf of Social Work within specific Localities, taking geographical spread into account. Therefore, subject to final negotiations, the following arrangements will be proposed.

Wishaw & Motherwell	D & M J Gorman R Wardroper United Taxis
Coatbridge & Bellshill	Airdrie Taxis Downie & McCole Maxis Taxis Monklands Taxis Town Taxis
Airdrie	Airdrie Taxis Monklands Taxis R & K Travel
Cumbernauld	Central Cab Co Cumbernauld TOA

- 4.5. The proposed duration of the contracts for Lot 1 (day services) is 3 years. These contracts have estimated values that can vary dependent on service changes and demands.
- 4.6. The proposed duration of the contracts for Lot 2 is two years with a facility to extend for one year. This allows for further assessment of whether or not demand levels in localities can be adequately met from a smaller provider base than currently exists.
- 4.7. North Lanarkshire Council's annual spend on both the aforementioned lots has been in the region of £1.1m in the year 2007/08.

5. Saving/Efficiencies

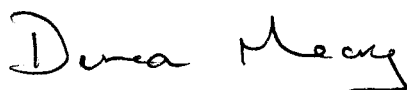
It is envisaged that in the first year of operation this tendering outcome will accrue annual savings for Social Work of approximately £80 k.

6. Implementation

As taxi and private hire services are currently being provided by approximately 65 separate companies or providers across North Lanarkshire a planning and implementation phase is required for the new contractual arrangements. It is proposed that new arrangement will prevail from mid October 2008.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee approves the issuing of contracts for taxi and private car hire as set out in the report



Duncan Mackay
Head of Social Work Development
7 August 2008

For further information on this report please contact Dennis O'Donnell, Manager, Quality Assurance on telephone 01698 332084.

Appendix 1

TOTAL SCORE LOT 1	Central Cab Company Ltd	Maxi's Taxis	United Taxis	Airdrie Taxis Ltd	Monklands Taxis Ltd	Downie & McCole Taxis	Town Taxis	R Wardropper
PRICE								
Price Weighting	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Weighted Price Score	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0
QUALITY								
Quality Weighting	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Weighted Quality Score	40	37.3	37.3	35.2	20.5	19.1	18.7	23.2
TOTAL								
Total Weighted Score	100.0	97.3	97.3	95.2	80.5	79.1	78.7	72.8
OVERALL RANKING	1	2	2	3	4	5	6	7

TOTAL SCORE LOT 2	Central Cab Company Ltd	Maxi's Taxis	United Taxis	Airdrie Taxis Limited	Cumbernauld TOA	R & K Travel	Town Taxis	Downie & McCole Taxis	Monklands Taxis Limited	Joseph Gorman	D & M Taxis	R Wardropper - GFT
PRICE												
Price Weighting	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Weighted Price Score	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	49.6
QUALITY												
Quality Weighting	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Weighted Quality Score	40	37.7	37.7	36.3	29.9	23.2	21.3	21.1	21.0	19.9	16.6	22.9
TOTAL												
Total Weighted Score	100.0	97.7	97.7	96.3	89.9	83.2	81.3	81.1	81.0	79.9	76.6	72.5
OVERALL RANKING	1	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11