

**Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy &
Scrutiny Committee (Pre-Decision Calling – In)**

11 October 2016

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and ICT

Called-in Item Pre-Decision: Park & Ride Service Operator Procurement

Summary

1. This report sets out a brief background to the issue called-in and the role of, and options available to, this Committee under the agreed pre-decision call-in arrangements.
2. City of York Council opened a tender process for bus operators to bid for a new contract to manage its Park & Ride services in June. With over four-million passenger journeys each year, the Council was confident the tender would attract a number of high profile bids to continue offering the best possible deal for residents and visitors.
3. Although there was strong interest in the contract, at this stage of the procurement process no responses meeting the council's financial expectations against the specification tendered were received.
4. The council is confident that an operator will be secured in the coming months. Following dialogue with a number of bus companies, options for addressing the concerns of potential suppliers will be developed. The Executive will be asked to approve the revised specification at its December meeting, prior to the issue of a revised invitation to tender.
5. The council has negotiated the terms for a six month extension to the current contract with First York, whose contract expires at the end of January 2017. This extension would ensure that residents and visitors experience no changes to the Park & Ride and would continue to receive the same level of service until a new operator is in place.

Background

6. At its meeting in August 2015, the Executive agreed some operational guidelines for enabling and supporting a pre-decision call-in process.

This supplements the pre-existing arrangements for post-decision call in and is intended to provide all backbench and scrutiny Members with opportunities to comment upon relevant upcoming Executive or Executive Member decisions.

7. In accordance with the arrangements for pre-decision scrutiny call-in, three Members (Councillors Craghill, D'Agorne and Kramm) have called in the intended decision in relation to the result of Park & Ride Service Operator Procurement, for the following reason:

“The park and ride service is a key component in our Local Transport Plan and in our policies for developing a sustainable transport system in York; it also plays a key part in our local economy, reducing congestion and underpinning sustainable access to employment, learning, retail and leisure opportunities, whilst having a key role in our public health objectives to reduce air pollution.

This item is presumably either to sign off or preparatory to signing off a contract for 8 years and is therefore an important opportunity to use this very attractive contract to influence sustainable and accessible public transport in the city – as such, we believe it should have full cross-party discussion in the light of the results of the procurement exercise before any decision is made.”

Consultation

8. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the calling-in Members have been invited to attend and/or speak at the Call-In meeting, as appropriate, together with the appropriate Executive member and officers.

Options

9. In relation to dealing with this pre decision call-in, in accordance with the new agreed arrangements Members may choose to provide feedback to officers to be presented at the meeting of the Executive on 13 October 2016.

Analysis

10. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and any comments made at the meeting by speakers, as well as have regard to the information in the officer's report to the Executive on this matter, which will be published online as an annex to this report ahead of the meeting.

Council Plan

11. There are no direct implications for this call-in in relation to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities for 2015-19.

Implications

12. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members; namely, to consider and handle the pre decision call-in. However, if it became clear to the Committee from information received that there were implications associated with any comments/recommendations it wished to make then it would be appropriate for the Committee to also recommend that any such implications be looked into, prior to the Executive making a decision which might be affected by those implications.

Risk Management

13. There are no direct risk management implications associated with considering the call in of this matter. However, the Committee would be advised to invite the Executive to take account of any risks associated with any comments/recommendations which the Committee may wish to make on the matter in hand, prior to implementing any decision.

Recommendations:

14. Having considered the reasons for call-in, Members are asked to consider whether:
 - i. They wish to make specific recommendations to the Executive on the report, in light of the reasons given for the post decision call-in. If this option is chosen, their comments will be considered by the Executive at a meeting to be held on 13 October.

Or;

- ii. They agree that there are no grounds to make specific recommendations to the Executive in respect of the report.

Reason: To provide scrutiny's views on the report ahead it being presented to the Executive.

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**Report
Approved**



Date 03 Oct 16

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annex A: Report to the Executive 'Park and Ride Service Operator
Procurement'