

## **AWARD OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE AND SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONTRACTS**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This document provides details of all tenders invited, and contracts awarded in 2005 (up to the date of publication), for *Aberdeenshire Local* bus services, combined *Aberdeenshire Local / School Transport* services, and School Transport services, operating in Aberdeenshire.
- 1.2 *Aberdeenshire Local* bus services and combined *Aberdeenshire Local / School Transport* services were tendered, and awarded, on a Minimum Subsidy basis, whereby the tender price is based on an estimate of the net cost of providing the service, having taken into account all available sources of income (e.g. passenger fares, concessionary travel reimbursement, Bus Service Operators Grant and parcels income).
- 1.3 Mainstream Home to School Transport contracts, with numbers which are pre-fixed by the letter 'C', operate as registered Local Bus services. These contracts were tendered, and awarded, on a Minimum Cost basis, whereby the tender price is based on an estimate of the net cost of providing the service having taken into account all available sources of income, but excluding fares income and concessionary travel re-imbusement.
- 1.4 All other School Transport contracts operate as dedicated School Transport services, and were tendered, and awarded, on the basis of prices being an estimate of the actual cost of providing the service.

### **2. Tenders**

- 2.1 Tenders were invited in 2005 for the operation of all *Aberdeenshire Local* bus services, combined *Aberdeenshire Local / School Transport* services, mainstream School Transport services and Music Centre Transport services, in Aberdeenshire.
- 2.2 Tenders were invited for a 5-year contract term, with the option of a 7-year contract term if such award achieved better value and / or service quality improvements.
- 2.3 Tenders were also invited for the operation of Support for Learner (SFL) School Transport services, which were previously operated on an emergency contract basis. These tenders were invited for a 2-year contract term.

### **3. Prices and other tender information**

- 3.1 Information regarding the number of tenders received, highest and lowest price by contract term, successful contractor and award price, along with an explanation if the contract was not awarded on the basis of the lowest individual tender price, is detailed for *Aberdeenshire Local* and combined *Aberdeenshire Local / School Transport* services in Section 1 of this

document. Details of successful package bids incorporating such services are outlined in Appendix A.

- 3.2 Information regarding the number of tenders received, highest and lowest price by contract term, successful contractor and award price, along with an explanation if the contract was not awarded on the basis of the lowest individual tender price, is detailed for Mainstream School Transport services in Section 2 of this document. Details of successful package bids incorporating only such services are outlined in Appendix B.
- 3.3 Information regarding the number of tenders received, highest and lowest price, successful contractor and award price, along with an explanation if the contract was not awarded on the basis of the lowest individual tender price, is detailed for Support For Learner (SFL) School Transport services in Section 3 of this document.
- 3.4 Information regarding the number of tenders received, highest and lowest price by contract term, successful contractor and award price, along with an explanation if the contract was not awarded on the basis of the lowest individual tender price, is detailed for Music Centre School Transport services in Section 4 of this document. Details of a successful package bid incorporating such services is outlined in Appendix C.
- 3.5 All prices in this document represent the annualised cost at the time of contract award, and do not take into account any subsequent variations to price associated with revisions to the contract specification.

#### **4. Budget allocations**

- 4.1 Contract numbers, which are prefixed by the letter 'L', but have no suffix, e.g. GL1, denote *Aberdeenshire Local* Bus service contracts, which are funded from the Council's Revenue Budget for the Support of Socially Necessary Bus Services.
- 4.2 Contract numbers, which are prefixed by the letter 'R', e.g. GR1, denote *Aberdeenshire Local* Bus service contracts, which are supported by the Scottish Executive's Rural Transport Fund.
- 4.3 Contract numbers, which are prefixed by the letter 'L', but include a three digit number followed by a letter, e.g. GL644V, denote combined *Aberdeenshire Local* Bus/School Transport service contracts which also provide for home to school transport for entitled school pupils. These contracts are either wholly or partially funded from the Council's Education Hired Transport Budgets.
- 4.4 All other contract numbers refer to School Transport service contracts (including SFL and Music Centre contracts), which are wholly funded from the Council's Education Hired Transport Budgets.