

Report to	Cllr Brian Jones, Lead Member Waste, Transport & Environment
Date of report	December 7th, 2020
Lead Officer	Emlyn Jones, Head of Planning, Public Protection & Countryside
Report author	Peter Daniels, Passenger Transport Manager
Title	Award of Local Bus Service D66C.25

1. What is the report about?

1.1. To award a replacement bus service contract covering services 66 (Denbigh Town Service/Denbigh - Henllan); and service 76 (Ruthin - Denbigh via Llandyrnog).

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. Formal approval is required from the appropriate Lead Member, under the Council's Standing Orders and Contract Procurement Rules.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That the Lead Member confirms the award of Contract D66C.25 to M & H Coaches Ltd.

4. Report details

4.1. Officers need to replace an expiring local bus service contract with one offering broadly like-for-like provision. Officers used the current passenger transport dynamic purchasing system to obtain quotations. Only those who have passed the appropriate quality threshold may tender, after which the award is on price only. The Council received two tenders. The award is to the lowest tenderer (M & H Coaches Ltd, also the current provider).

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. This supports the Council's 'Connected Communities' priority and, indirectly, the 'Young People' priority (access to education).

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. The total gross cost of the contract over its complete five-year term is £1,060,680.

6.2. This includes peak school movements for learners who qualify for free transport to and from Ysgol Brynhyfryd, St Brigid's and Denbigh High.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. No specific well-being assessment is required, as the timetables neither improve the service nor place passengers/qualifying learners in detriment. The contract offers a level of service equivalent to today's timetable.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. This is generally not applicable (as there are no pending changes particularly cuts to these services). Officers did, however, consult with Denbigh MAG about the town service/Henllan element which, as a result, will continue to be offered as a flexible bus service.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. The recommendation to award a replacement bus service contract covering services 66 and 76 is supported. The award will ensure the continuity of the service at slightly reduced net cost to the Council.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Risk	Mitigation
That the successful tender cannot accept the contract	Unlikely, as the successful bidder is known to DCC officers. The proposed operator and has sufficient vehicles attached to their licence.

	Work nevertheless would as necessary pass to next lowest, subject to a financial re-evaluation.
Risk to council of contractor insolvency during the contract period.	Financial risk to DCC is low, owing to payment in arrears. D & B check undertaken
Gross cost nature of the contract results in revenue falling to the Council. Risk if revenue does not match expectations	Note that the opposite net subsidy contract poses higher risks. Operator is well thought of by officers. Bus hardship payments due from TfW during the virus emergency when passenger numbers are depressed for up to 2½ years. Thereafter and at all times, revenue requires monitoring.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Contract Procurement Rule 2.7.2.

11.2. Powers delegated to the Lead Member as outlined in Appendix 2(b) to Section 13 of the Council's Constitution- the Members Scheme of Delegation.