



Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy & Delivery Plan – Award of Contract

Date of meeting 9 June 2023

Date of report 30 May 2023

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To recommend the Committee approves an award of contract for consultancy services to support the development of the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy to Systra Limited.

2. Background to report

Members will recall¹ the report to the previous Committee regarding a proposal to develop a Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) in line with the – at that time – developing new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). The report also detailed the proposed development process and structure for the SRBS. As members are aware, the final draft RTS was approved by the Partnership in March 2023. The process to procure consultancy support to help develop the SRBS is outlined in the following sections of this report.

3. Outline of proposals

3.1 Commission overview

The commission potentially covers the full SRBS development process, which is broken down into six work packages:

- Work Package 1 Case for Change
- Work Package 2 Options Appraisal
- Work Package 3 Strategy Development & Consultation
- Work Package 4 Finalise Strategy & Delivery Plan
- Work Package 5 Strategic Business Case
- Work Package 6 Strategic Advisor - Bus Reform and Organisational Change

At this stage, SPT is securing services for Work Package 1 Case for Change and Work Package 2 Options Appraisal. Dependent on the outcome of these first two stages, an option has been retained to award Work Packages 3 - 6 to the consultant procured for Work Packages 1 and 2, however this is at SPT's discretion and subject to future Partnership approval.

Work Package 1 Case for Change will develop a solid evidence base and narrative for the future of bus in the region, drawing extensively upon previous work carried out by SPT and its partners, including work carried out for the RTS. In summary, the conclusions of

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/zqsayayn/sp251122_agenda8.pdf

Work Package 1 will set the scale of change required in our regional bus system in order to help deliver the new RTS. At this stage, it is anticipated that the outcomes of Work Package 1 will be presented to the Committee in September 2023.

Work Package 2 Options Appraisal will develop options as to how best achieve the scale of change identified in Work Package 1 Case for Change, appraise these in line with set criteria and due process (STAG), and make a recommendation on the 'preferred option' to be taken forward. This second stage will also identify, at a strategic level, the most appropriate future operating and funding model for bus the region, and give a clear direction in that regard.

The results of this stage will be presented to the Partnership for approval in March 2024 and, subject to that, Work Packages 3 and 4 will commence.

3.2 Procurement route

The procurement route for securing consultancy support was a mini competition using SPT's Design, Technical and Professional Services (DTPS) Framework - Lot One - Transport Planning. Six bidders were invited to the mini-competition and three submitted a tender response. The tenders were evaluated on a basis of quality 70% and price 30%.

3.3 Tender assessment results

The Most Economically Advantageous Tenderers (MEAT) evaluation is as follows:

Supplier name	Quality Score	Price Score	Cost	Total Price + Quality	Ranking
Systra Limited	70	28	£147,188	98	1
Jacobs Limited	64	30	£134,940	94	2
AECOM Limited	51	27	£149,975	78	3

All tenderers provided, at minimum, relevant and acceptable responses against all criteria. Systra Limited scored slightly higher than other tenderers on the quality and resilience of personnel criteria, particularly in relation to the depth of relevant bus expertise and experience within the proposed team. Prices were provided as a fixed price value for delivering Work Packages 1 and 2.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) approve the award of contract for consultancy support to develop the Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy to Systra Limited for a value of £147,188 (excluding VAT);
- (ii) note that Work Packages 3 - 6 will be awarded at SPT's discretion and Partnership approval, and will be dependent on the outcomes of Work Packages 1 and 2; and
- (iii) following (ii) above, note that the programme and costs for Work Packages 3 – 6 will be subject to approval by a future Committee at the appropriate time.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences

The SRBS will support the achievement of the RTS targets and objectives and help deliver RTS policies, in particular Policy 1: Accessible Transport; Policy 2: Affordable Transport; Policy 3: Availability and Coverage of Transport; Policy 4: Safe and Secure Transport; Policy 18: Integrated Public Transport

System; Policy 19: Ticketing and information; and Policy 21: Bus quality and integration.

Legal consequences	<i>None at this time.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>The process to develop the SRBS is within existing budgets.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None at this time.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>The SRBS will support delivery of all RTS policies within the Accessing and Using Transport policy theme, aiming for a transport system that works for everyone. Impact assessments will be integrated into the process to develop the SRBS. Impact assessments will cover EQIA, Fairer Scotland Duty, Child Rights and Welfare, and Island Communities.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None at this time.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>The SRBS will support RTS targets for reduced transport emissions and modal shift to more sustainable travel and behaviours. The SRBS will include actions for decarbonisation of vehicles. SEA screening is being carried out.</i>

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