

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION TAKEN – FOR PUBLICATION

PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM MUST BE HAND DELIVERED TO THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES TEAM WITHIN 1 WORKING DAY OF THE DECISION BEING TAKEN.

FOR USE WITH ALL PORTFOLIO AND OFFICER KEY DECISIONS

See checklist below and Guidance Note 4 – Guidance Notes for Individual Member/officer Decision-making.

Decision taken by: **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SCENE**

Summary of Decision Taken including reasons (If appropriate, please specify relevant paragraphs within the report)

To award the contract, following a tender process, for the provision of concessionary travel mobility assessments to Dependability Limited

The contract period will be from 01 July 2009 to 31st May 2011, with the option of 1 year plus 1 year extension(s) subject to the agreement of both parties (it is only subject to the Council deciding to extend and providing relevant notice), review of the marketplace/ supply base for concessionary travel and in consultation with the councils Corporate Procurement Department.

PLEASE SPECIFY CATEGORY OF DECISION: Key
If Key, please quote Forward Plan reference. Reference No. KD2761

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

See report

Was the decision made in Part 1 or Part 2 ? If Part 2 please give the relevant paragraph of the Access to Information Act.


Part 1, financial assessment of tenders are contained in a part 2 report

Interests Declared in Respect of the Decision (and by who):

N/a

NOTE: This form must be signed and dated by the decision taker(s) – see below:

The date specified will be taken as the date that the decision was made.

Signed 

Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene

Date / /

Mr Terence Neville
PLEASE PRINT NAME

Signed 

Chief Executive

Date 17 / 06 / 09

R CLARK
PLEASE PRINT NAME

Checklist for report authors:

1. Is the decision to be taken clear and have all sections of the form been completed?
2. Is the decision key or non-key, delete as appropriate (please see Guidance Note No. 1).
3. Has the form been signed and dated by the Director and the Cabinet Member?

NOTE: PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE REPORT TO WHICH THE DECISION RELATES

FOR DST OFFICE USE	Ref. No:	Date of Receipt:
CATEGORY OF DECISION:	ELIGIBLE FOR CALL-IN: YES/NO	DATE TO BE CALLED-IN BY:

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010 REPORT NO.

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

**DECISION OF: Cabinet
Member for
Environment & Street
Scene**

Contact officer and telephone number:

Kate Robertson – 0208 379 4431

E mail: kate.Robertson@enfield.gov.uk

Agenda – Part 1:	Item: KD2761
Subject: Concessionary Travel Assessments	
Wards:ALL	
Cabinet Member consulted: Terrence Neville	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New guidance on the Blue Badge scheme from the Department for Transport (DfT) 'strongly recommends' that non-automatic cases are assessed by an independent health professional, as opposed to GP endorsement which it views as 'wholly unsatisfactory'.

Enfield engaged consultancy support in December 2007 to examine the strategic context, review current processes, put in place a trial mobility assessment service and propose recommendations for a longer-term solution.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 This report is to seek approval to award Dependability Limited the contract, following a tender process, for the provision of concessionary travel mobility assessments.
- 2.2 The contract period will be from 01July 2009 to 31st May 2011, with the option of 1 year plus 1 year extension(s) subject to the agreement of both parties (it is only subject to the Council deciding to extend and providing relevant notice), review of the marketplace/ supply base for concessionary travel and in consultation with the councils Corporate Procurement Department.
- 2.3 To note that the details of the evaluation exercise are contained in part 2 of this report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The London Borough of Enfield is seeing an increased number of applications for concessionary travel services. Concessionary Travel users have raised concerns about fraudulent and/or misuse of Freedom Passes and Blue Badges, which is impacting on their ability to use the facilities available to them.
- 3.2 Most applications for Blue Badge and Freedom Passes are allocated on the basis of automatic criteria set out in the Transport Act 2000 as follows:
- That you are registered blind `severely sight impaired`
 - That you receive the Higher rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance
 - That you receive a war pensioner`s mobility supplement
 - That your vehicle is funded by the Department of Work and Pension (DWP) via the motability scheme
- 3.3 For all applications that do not meet the automatic criteria, the Council has in the past relied on GP endorsement. The DfT, in its guidance on the Blue Badge scheme, `strongly recommends` that non-automatic cases are assessed by independent health professionals in order to maintain a consistent and appropriate response, and views the use of GP endorsement as `wholly unsatisfactory`. GP endorsement can lead to inappropriate entitlement where mobility impairment has in many cases not been evaluated, in turn leading to increasing numbers of badge and passholders, with consequential pressure on local resources. GP endorsement also leads to an inconsistent approach and the potential for complaints or referrals to the ombudsman.
- 3.4 Enfield Council currently spends in excess of £8m a year on Freedom passes. The cost is determined by a count of those assessed as eligible every two years. The last count took place in September 2008 and determined the costs for 2009-2011. GPs previously received between £30 - £75 per endorsement from the Primary Care Trust.
- 3.5 Enfield Council engaged consultancy support in December 2007 to examine the strategic context, look at current service provision, put in place a pilot trial mobility assessment service, develop a business case and put forward recommendations to support a longer term solution. This pilot has been extended into 2008/09.
- 3.6 A tender exercise was undertaken – detail of which are contained in Part 2 of this report. Representatives from Age Concern and Enfield Disability Action were part of the assessment panel.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The Council can choose a number of options:

4.1.1 Continue with previous arrangement and use GP endorsement for non-automatic criteria – which has been deemed as wholly unacceptable by the DfT

4.1.2 As 4.1.1 but invest in greater enforcement of blue badges – which could be a more expensive option and may not deliver any enhanced benefits.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Tender received from Dependability Limited is recommended for acceptance as their tender achieved the highest overall combined (quality and financial) evaluation score. The evaluation process is detailed in part 2 of this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

The financial implications relating to this tender exercise are contained in the part 2 report.

6.2 Risk Management Implications

A risk assessment was conducted, and no significant risks were identified. There is an element of reputational risk if the contractor does not deliver an excellent service. See Performance Management Implications below for how this will be mitigated.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 The estimated total value of this procurement is above the EU Procurement threshold for services and as such, the procurement must have been conducted in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2006.

6.3.2 All contracts that exceed £250,000 or which have a significant impact on the local community must have been included on the Forward Plan as a Key Decision.

6.3.3 The Procurement must also have had due regard to obtaining value for money and comply with the duty of best value as laid down in the Local Government Act 1999.

6.3.4 The Contract will need to be in a form approved by the Borough Solicitor.

6.4 Property Implications

6.4.1 Assessments will take place at Park Avenue Disabilities Centre. Six monthly meetings will take place between Customer Service, Health & Adult Social Care and Dependability to discuss any issues and agree assessments rotas for the forthcoming six months.

6.4.2 Should Park Avenue become unavailable, an alternative suitable venue will need to be provided.

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Contractor's performance in delivering this contract will be measured against the Council's Putting Enfield First objectives. In order to meet the Council's objectives, the Contractor's performance will be assessed from the following three sets of indicators:

- Contract Management
- Customer Satisfaction
- Operational Performance

7.2 Performance monitoring will be a continuous process and key performance indicators will be reported monthly at progress meetings

8. COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Concessionary travel plays a vital role in helping older and disabled people to maintain independence and an active role in the local community.

8.2 Introducing a mobility assessment process delivered by qualified health professionals will lead to greater consistency in the assessment of applications for concessionary travel services, reducing fraud and the misuse of the passes. This will benefit those in genuine need of support, freeing up parking spaces for those with mobility needs.

8.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed.

9. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

The contract arrangements contribute to the Council's Corporate Strategy 'Putting Enfield First'

Aim 4: Quality health and care services for vulnerable people in Enfield

4c Help the most vulnerable members of our communities to live more independent lives