

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2006

RENEWAL OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE CONTRACT 6951C: AYR – DALMELLINGTON, SERVICE 52

Report by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To request the views of the Committee on the renewal of Local Bus Service Ayr Dalmellington Service 52, Contract 6951C from 16 July 2006, and the extension of the current contract for this service, 6951B from 26 March 2006 until 15 July 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Strathclyde Passenger Transport currently manages, on an agency basis, subsidised local bus services on behalf of East Ayrshire Council for local public transport provision outside the designated SPT area.
- 2.2** With effect from 1 April 2006, this responsibility will transfer to the West of Scotland Regional Transport Partnership. It is understood that the budget for public transport provision currently managed by East Ayrshire Council will transfer along with it.

3. CONTRACT 6951C (AYR – DALMELLINGTON), SERVICE 52

- 3.1** Service 52 is currently operated by Stagecoach Western Buses and the current contract is due to finish on 25 March 2006. The renewal contract was tendered with a start date of 16 July 2006 to bring it into line with the normal tender renewal cycle. Therefore, if continuation of service 52 is agreed, an extension to the current contract, 6951B is required between 26 March 2006 until 15 July 2006 at the current cost, which equates to £4,183.52 for the period of extension.
- 3.2** A copy of the current timetable is shown on attachment A. The subsidised journeys provide additional socially desirable journeys that would not otherwise be provided in the non-subsidised timetable operated by Stagecoach Western Buses.
- 3.3** The budgeted cost for the contract for 2006/2007 is £14,548, funded by £9,992 from the Rural Transport Grant and £4,557 from East Ayrshire Council mainstream subsidised bus budget. However, to ensure that the spend for 2006/2007 for the Rural Transport Grant (RTG) is within budget, it is recommended that the rural RTG allocation is set at a maximum of £8000.
- 3.4** The sole tender received for the renewal of the contract due to commence on 16 July 2006, was from Stagecoach Western Buses at a cost of £46,176 for the three year contract period equivalent to £15,392 per year.
- 3.5** An analysis of usage on the current service shows that around 3,300 passengers per year are made on the additional subsidised journeys. This equates to 62 per week using the four subsidised journeys. This is equivalent to a subsidy cost per passenger of £4.22 which for comparative purposes is above the SPT Guideline Criteria for subsidised bus journeys of £2.90 per journey.

3.6 However, if this contract was not awarded passengers on Sundays would either have to travel one hour earlier or later as there are no alternative services available along most of the route. The late night Friday and Saturday services from Ayr allow a late journey to Bellsbank after 10.00pm. If awarded, the contract would maintain the provision of socially necessary bus services between Ayr and Bellsbank.

3.7 As the Rural Transport Grant funding for 2006/2007 for East Ayrshire Council is static at £8,000 it is recommended that the funding split for that year, should the contract be awarded, be revised to:

	£	%
Rural Transport Grant	8,000	51.98
East Ayrshire Council Mainstream	7,392	48.02

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The sole tender received for the renewal of the contract from 16 July 2006 for 3 years was from Stagecoach Western Buses at a cost of £46,176 for the three year contract period equivalent to £15,392 per year.

5.2 The cost of extending the existing contract between 26 March 2006 until 15 July 2006 at the current cost, equates to £4,183.52 for the period of extension, to be met from EACs mainstream subsidised bus budget,

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is requested to agree that: -

- a) Contract 6951C Ayr - Bellsbank (Service 52) should be awarded to Stagecoach Western Buses at a cost of £46,176 for the contract period; and
- b) contract 6951B – Ayr – Bellsbank (service 52) should be extended at the current cost, which equates to £4,183.52 for the period of the extension from 26 March 2006 until 15 July 2006.


James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
KC - FV
17 February 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Kerr Chalmers on: 01563 555715

Implementation Officer: Kerr Chalmers

	TENDER TYPE	CONTRACT DURATION		TENDER SPECIFICATION 1A
	Local Service School-Contract School/Local	36 months	From To	16 Jul 2006 18 Jul 2009
ROUTE TERMINALS : AYR - DALMELLINGTON				SERVICE NO: 52

Route details: AYR Town Centre at a point to be agreed with the Executive via Burns Statue Square, Castlehill Road, A713, Ayr Hospital, A713, B742, Dalrymple, B7034, A713, Patna Main Street, Blaney Avenue, Whitehall Avenue, Carnshalloch Avenue, Dalharco Avenue, Dalmellington Road, A713, Dalmellington Main Street, Square, Main Street, Bellsbank Road, Merrick Drive, Glen Mount, Dalfarson Avenue, **BELLSBANK**, Merrick Drive.

Return from **BELLSBANK**, Merrick Drive via Bellsbank Road then above route reversed to **AYR** Town Centre at a point to be agreed with the Executive.

Friday and Saturday

	2315
AYR, Town Centre Ayr	2329
Hospital	2335
Dalrymple	2350
Patna	0002
Dalmellington, Square	<u>0007</u>
<u>BELLSBANK</u>	

SUNDAY

AYR, Town Centre Ayr	2100	BELLSBANK	0852
Hospital	2114	Dalmellington, Square	0857
Dalrymple	2120	Patna	0908
Patna	2135	Dalrymple	0920
Daimellington, Square	2147	Ayr Hospital	0926
<u>BELLSBANK</u>	2152	<u>AYR, Town Centre</u>	<u>0940</u>