

**Report title: Supported Bus Service Review**

**Wards affected:** City Wide

**Strategic Director:** Barra Mac Ruairi, Place

**Report Author:** Nicola Phillips

**RECOMMENDATION for the Mayor's approval:**

To award the supported bus service contracts in Appendix 1 in accordance with the parameters agreed in the medium term financial plan subject to ratification with West of England Combined Authority Board in line with Paragraphs 16 and 17

**Key background / detail:**

a. Purpose of report: To seek approval to award the supported bus service Contracts.

b. Key details:

1. The majority of bus Services in Bristol are provided on a commercial basis by private bus companies. Bristol City Council provides support to a number of bus services in the city that supplement the commercial network with services that it considers to be socially necessary. These are fully supported services where the council pays for the full operation of the service; or partially supported services where the Council pays for certain journeys or extensions to the route. We refer to these services as supported services.

2. Many of the supported services are orbital in nature or create links between communities that are not connected by arterial routes. As above, these routes are deemed as being socially necessary and without the Council support, they would not otherwise be provided. The Council is given powers to procure socially necessary services under the Transport Act 1985 (and as amended).

3. Bristol City Council currently provides support to a number of bus services throughout the city, a list of these services can be found in the Appendices of the Cabinet Report.

4. We have received bids from 4 operators to run our supported bus services. We have reviewed the bids and applied our considerations and priorities for making decisions on what services to award; these are (in no particular order):

- Bus Strategy guide on good value for money
- Bus Strategy priorities on services to support,
- Where there is no other commercial provision;
- Feedback from consultation;
- Value for money on tender returns
- Potential for commercialisation.

5. A full list of bus services that we are proposing to award can be found in Appendix 1. A map showing these services can be found at <http://arcg.is/2kAD3W9>.