

Transport North East

Procurement Award: Supplier to carry out a public attitudes survey to support delivery of the regional Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 programme.

Report by: Simon Jobe, Transport North East Strategy Unit

Report to: Managing Director, Transport North East

1. Purpose

1.1 A procurement process has been carried out on behalf of Transport North East by Durham County Council using their procurement contractor Bloom. The procurement was carried out via a competition and seven potential suppliers were invited to bid. We are now in the final stages and would like to progress to contract award. This report seeks approval to award the contract to Bluegrass, who, on behalf of Transport North East, will progress the public attitudes survey and produce a findings summary report. This work will support the region's Active Travel Fund tranche 2 programme and future programmes involving active travel infrastructure.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To grant approval to appoint Bluegrass to carry out the public attitudes survey work, produce a findings report and present findings to the North East Heads of Transport meeting (or similar). The value of the contract is £22,880.

3. Background

3.1 The region has recently been awarded £9.049m to deliver its Active Travel Fund tranche 2 programme of schemes which will reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians. In addition to consultations for individual schemes, the Department for Transport (DfT) have requested that public attitudes surveys be carried out to find the extent to which there is local support for the types of interventions being carried out in the Active Travel Fund tranche 2 programme. £40k of our regional programme has therefore been allocated to carry out our public attitudes survey.

3.2 A full procurement exercise has been carried out in order to procure a supplier who will explore regional public attitudes on active travel infrastructure in general and will also seek views on the types of interventions being delivered through our tranche 2 programme.

3.3 The specification was sent to seven potential suppliers via Bloom and three submissions were received. The tender returns were reviewed on a 70% quality and 30% price basis. The tender price of the successful supplier (£22,880), which was also the lowest tender in terms of price, falls within the available budget of £40,000 and offers excellent value for money.

4. Considerations

Bloom's Procurement Team has carried out this procurement exercise in line with the terms and conditions of their procurement contract with Durham County Council. There are no further considerations to consider.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Officers from Transport North East as well as the Business Intelligence Manager, Nexus were involved in the development of both the tender specification and assessing the tender responses.

6. What happens next

- 6.1 With the approval of the Managing Director, Transport North East, Bluegrass will be notified of our intention to award the contract and enter into the agreement. A contract will then be prepared and sent to them for signature.

7. Contact Officers and Background Papers

- 7.1 Simon Jobe, Transport North East Strategy Unit
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Approved to proceed to contract:

Managing Director, Transport North East



Date: 29 March 2021