

Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 15 January 2020

Driver Training Panel Framework Contract - Future delivery of the National Driver Offending Scheme (NDORS) in Staffordshire



Cllr Helen Fisher, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport said,

“Staffordshire has one of the safest road networks in the country and members of the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership are committed to maintaining that.

“The training courses provided are an important part of that work and it is essential we have enough qualified trainers in place to deliver them.”

Report Summary:

The objective of the report is to establish approval to establish a framework with fifteen NDORS licenced driver trainers to enable the delivery of NDORS courses within Staffordshire. This is for the period of 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023, with the option to extend the framework by one additional year until the 31st March 2024, following an Open Procedure compliant with The Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Recommendation

I recommend that:

- a. The County Council enters into a framework agreement with fifteen NDORS licenced driver trainers for the period of 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023, with the option extend until the 31st March 2024, to guarantee the delivery of NDORS courses in Staffordshire.

Local Members Interest
N/A

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Recommendations of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

I recommend that:

- a. The County Council enters into a framework agreement with fifteen NDORS licenced driver trainers for the period of 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023, with the option extend until the 31st March 2024, to guarantee the delivery of NDORS courses in Staffordshire.

Report of the Director of Economy, Infrastructure and Skills

Reasons for Recommendations:

1. Through education, training and publicity, Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) promotes a culture where speeding, reckless driving, use of mobile phones and drink driving are regarded as anti-social practices. A recent evaluation by the Department for Transport confirmed the Speed Awareness Course to be more effective at preventing reoffending than the fixed penalty alternative.
2. As a strategic partner of the SSRP, the County Council is commissioned to deliver a number of education and training initiatives, including driver education courses through the National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS). This is at no cost to the County Council and helps to fulfil the County Council's statutory duty to promote road safety (s.39 Road Traffic Act 1988). The course fee paid for by the course attendee is collected by the County Council and is used to pay the trainers.
3. Although this commissioned delivery by the County Council has been in place for a number of years, there is currently no existing contract with our panel of driver trainers for the provision of delivery of NDORS courses in Staffordshire.
4. The current spend profile is approximately £500k per annum. However, to provide greater flexibility and accommodate potential future changes in enforcement activity, with associated road safety benefits, additional courses may need to be established and therefore the size of the current panel is to be increased from twelve to fifteen trainers, and each trainer will be set up with a purchase order of £50k. The potential cost of delivering the courses will be £750,000 per annum though this figure may not be realised depending on demand.
5. The principal objectives of the Framework is to ensure business continuity for the County Council on behalf of the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) to deliver the NDORS in Staffordshire. As an NDORS course provider, the County

Council operates under a licence granted by the operating company UKROEd Ltd to deliver courses which focuses on changing driving behaviour, attitude and prevent motorists re-offending again.

6. As an alternative to prosecution, approximately 35,000 motorists undertake an NDORS course in Staffordshire each year. For the delivery of these courses, a panel of NDORS licensed trainers is required.
7. The contracted delivery of the suite of NDORS courses for the 2019 calendar year delivered in Staffordshire, consist of 1512 National Speed Awareness Courses, 129 National Motorway Awareness Courses, 15 Safe & Considerate Driving courses and 32 What's Driving Us? courses at the time of writing this document.
8. This is a high-profile category for the County Council to ensure the delivery of a commissioned service that contributes to the funding of the SSRP. This revenue is then utilised to fund road safety helping make Staffordshire a safer place to live.
9. The County Council has a dedicated Road Safety team that will contract manage and place orders for training through the framework. These will be approved in line with the scheme of delegation by a Band B officer.
10. Consideration was made for the use of a Government frameworks (Crown Commercial Services) or collaborative frameworks (Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation etc); however, following a review of the available frameworks and of the County Council's requirements, the needs of the County Council would not have been met by these arrangements.
11. An Open competitive Procedure tender process was completed with 17 suppliers applying. Following evaluation, it is the recommendation of the Commercial Unit and the Road Safety team, that fifteen NDORS licenced driver trainers are appointed to the Framework.

Legal Implications

12. It is believed that there are no major legal implications arising as a result of the procurement of the framework. A rigid procurement process was followed and the scope; obligations; performance management and how courses will be allocated to trainers are detailed in the framework and the specification.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

13. Due to the County Council being commissioned to deliver the National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme, there is no cost to the County Council. The course fee paid for by the course attendee is collected by the County Council and is used to pay the trainers.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Community Impact Assessment – Summary Document

Contact Details

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