



## **Leadership Board**

Tuesday, 20th September 2016 at 2.00 pm

Meeting to be held in a Committee Room, Sunderland Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7SN

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## **SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA 3**

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| <b>5 (d) Go Smarter 2016-17 - Appointment of Delivery Providers</b>  | <b>1 - 6</b>   |
| <p>(NB. In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the Chair has approved consideration of this report on the grounds of urgency due to the timetables involved).</p> |                |

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**To All Members**

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## North East Combined Authority

### Leadership Board

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**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**SUBJECT:** Go Smarter 2016-17 – Appointment of Delivery Providers

**REPORT OF:** Chief Executive Officer for Transport

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Following a competitive procurement process, this report seeks approval to appoint three contractors as delivery providers for the following elements of the 2016-17 Go Smarter programme:

- Go Smarter to Work Business Engagement – delivery provider PWLC Projects LLP
- Schools Active Travel Promotion – delivery providers JMP Consultants Limited and WSP UK Limited

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Leadership Board approves the appointment of the above contractors to enable Go Smarter activities in schools and workplaces to be progressed.

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) was a Department for Transport (DfT) led funding programme which began in 2011, with the aim of delivering sustainable transport solutions which would support economic growth and reduce carbon emissions. Following funding awards, a range of activities have been successfully delivered in Northumberland, Durham and the five Tyne and Wear local authorities over the four years between 2011/12 and 2015/16.
- 1.2 LSTF funding came to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and will be replaced by a £60m 'Access Fund' for delivery from 2017/18. To bridge this gap and avoid valuable projects having to be closed down for a year and then re-started, DfT launched a 'Sustainable Travel Transition Year; funding completion for 2016/17'. NECA submitted a revenue only bid and on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 were informed that that bid was successful and the full amount (£2.343m) was awarded. This programme covers the entire NECA area and is branded as 'Go Smarter'.
- 1.3 The bid has three elements – Schools Go Smarter (SGS), Go Smarter Ways into Work, and Go Smarter to Work.
- 1.4 A key commitment of the NECA Transition Year bid was that the Authority could 'hit the ground running' with no hiatus in delivery. This was essential given the short timeframe of the programme. Since the announcement in May, arrangements have been put in place for delivery for the various elements of the programme.
- 1.5 This report seeks approval to appoint contractors for two elements of the programme: Go Smarter to Work Business Engagement and Schools Active Travel Promotion. In each case, a competitive procurement process has been undertaken with Officers from a number of the NECA Constituent Authorities involved in the assessment and evaluation of tenders.

### 2. Go Smarter to Work Business Engagement

- 2.1 Go Smarter to Work consists of a number of projects, all with the aim of encouraging employees to travel sustainably and actively on the journey to and from work. A cornerstone of GSW is business engagement, whereby contact is made with organisations in the NECA area and the toolkit of Go Smarter measures offered to them, in return for completion of travel survey data.
- 2.2 Newcastle and Sunderland City Councils have chosen to deliver these business engagement activities 'in-house'. For the other five NECA Constituent Authorities, tenders were received from four contractors. JMP Consultants Limited emerged as the strongest bidder within budget for delivery in Durham and South Tyneside and WSP UK Ltd emerged as the strongest bidder within budget for delivery in Gateshead, Northumberland and North Tyneside.

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### **3. Schools Active Travel Promotion**

- 3.1 Schools Active Travel Promotion is part of the overall Schools Go Smarter programme, which comprises a number of projects, all with the aim of encouraging pupils, parents, and teachers to travel sustainably and actively on the journey to and from school.
- 3.2 Newcastle City Council have chosen to deliver these activities 'in-house' whilst Gateshead Council have undertaken a separate procurement exercise. For the other five NECA authorities, tenders were received from four contractors and PWLC Projects LLP emerged as the strongest bidder with their costs offering the most competitive rate.

### **4. Reason for urgency**

- 4.1 An urgent decision is necessary because the 2016/17 Go Smarter programme has already started. Whilst interim arrangements for liaison with schools have been arranged by the Go Smarter Programme Management Team until the end of September, new contractors need to be appointed from that date. It is necessary for approval to be given to enable the procurement processes to be completed as a matter of urgency, thus enabling the contracts to be awarded and commencement of delivery.

### **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 If the appointment of these contractors is approved by Leadership Board, all the bidders will be advised of the outcome of the tendering process. Provided no challenge to the outcome of this process is received during the necessary 10 day 'standstill' period, the formal award of the contracts to the preferred bidders will take place and the delivery of the contracts will promptly commence. .

### **6. Potential Impact on Objectives**

- 6.1 Implementation of these projects as part of the overall Go Smarter programme will assist the Combined Authority in delivering its objective to achieve a more sustainable transport system for the region.

### **7. Finance and Other Resources**

- 7.1 These activities will be delivered using the allocated Go Smarter 2016-17 grant funding and the proposed contract values are within budget thresholds for the work specified. There are no net additional financial implications for NECA arising from this report.

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### 8 Legal

- 8.1 A procurement process compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 has been undertaken as described in the main body of the report. There are no further legal implications arising otherwise than as set out in the report.

### 9 Other Considerations

#### 9.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

The community has been engaged via schools and workplaces during delivery of the transition year activities and the Go Smarter programme has been well received. We request feedback for all of our activity and amend delivery in line with comments.

#### 9.2 Human Rights

There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

#### 9.3 Equalities and Diversity

An equalities analysis was undertaken as part of the bid development.

#### 9.4 Risk Management

A risk assessment was undertaken and a detailed risk register included in the bid.

#### 9.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

#### 9.6 Environment and Sustainability

This programme encourages use of active and sustainable travel leading to reduced carbon and other emissions.

### 10 Background Documents

Sustainable Travel Transition Year bid – NECA application form:  
[http://www.northeastca.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file\\_attachments/Sustainable%20Travel%20Transition%20Year%20Revenue%20Competition%202016-17%20-%20NECA%20Application%20Form.pdf](http://www.northeastca.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file_attachments/Sustainable%20Travel%20Transition%20Year%20Revenue%20Competition%202016-17%20-%20NECA%20Application%20Form.pdf)

### 11 Links to Plans in the Policy Framework

This programme reflects priorities set out in the Transport Manifesto and the Strategic Economic Plan.

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### 12 Appendices

None.

### 13 Contact Officers

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### 14 Sign off

- Interim Head of Paid Service ✓
- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓

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