

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

SURFACE TRANSPORT PANEL

**SUBJECT: EAST THAMES BUSES – MARKET TESTING**

**DATE: 24 FEBRUARY 2009**

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**1 BACKGROUND**

1.1 In November 2008, the Finance Committee asked Surface Transport to test the market to establish the benefits of putting East Thames Buses into the private sector. The progress to date, which is currently in line with the agreed plan, is summarised below.

**2 PROGRESS TO PLAN**

**Pre-Qualification Questionnaire**

2.1 The Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice (seeking expressions of interest) was published on 9 January 2009 for a submission deadline of 9 February 2009. Expressions of interest have been received along with completed Pre-Qualification Questionnaires. These are being evaluated.

**Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) Preparation**

2.2 In parallel with the above, the ITN and associated documentation is in preparation and due for issue by the end of February 2009. This includes:

- (a) the Instructions to Tenderers, incorporating the Form of Tender and Evaluation Criteria;
- (b) the demarcation of the property of Mandela Way which is jointly occupied by East Thames Buses and Dial-a-Ride;
- (c) the asset register, including details of the vehicle fleet;
- (d) Human Resources information, including staff terms and conditions; and
- (e) route and service specifications.

**3 NEXT STEPS**

3.1 Following the issue of the ITN to all pre-qualified tenderers, indicative bids are due to be received by 25 March. Evaluation and post tender negotiations will follow. The planned completion of this process remains July 2009.

## **4 RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 The Panel is asked to NOTE this report.

## **5 CONTACT**

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