Appendix B: Award of Contracts

In order to stabilise the bus network for a period of around 2 years, the overview below provides a summary of the categories of tendered service contract awards required (based on current expiration dates). The final list of contracts to be awarded by delegated authority to SYMCA's Acting Executive Director of Transport (in liaison with SYMCA's Chief Executive and the Mayor of South Yorkshire), will be within the MCA approved transport funding envelope and informed by the final contract costs with discussions with operators currently ongoing.

- Non-statutory school services expiring in July 2024 are to initially be extended or retendered of for a further academic year (September 2024 to July 2025).

- Daytime services (Monday to Saturday until about 7/8pm):
    - contract awards for a small number of tendered service contracts expiring in September 2023 to July 2026; extending these for 151 weeks to align to all the other daytime services expiring in July 2026, and;
    - pending confirmation of service changes from operators of commercial services (in response to the recent government announcements of an extension, at reduced levels, of post-Covid support funding), it may be necessary for the MCA to provide tendered services for cancelled commercial daytime services from the end of October 2023 to the end of March 2025.

- Evening services (Monday to Saturday after 7/8pm) and Sunday tendered services, to be secured within the remaining funding envelope:
    - contracts expiring on 2 September 2023, to initially be extended to late October 2023, to allow a period of further development and resource adjustments to facilitate service frequency reductions to enable broader network coverage, and subsequently, and;
    - from around 1 November 2023 until the 29 March 2025 contracts are to be awarded:
        - to maintain hourly frequencies to major hospitals, key employment links for as many shift times as possible, and;
        - to implement 90 to 120 minute frequencies within the remaining available funding across the network to protect as much patronage as possible.