

	<p>ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY OFFICER 9th March 2015</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Appointment of financial and commercial consultancy advisors for the Education and Skills ADM project</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Commercial and Customer Services Director</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Project brief</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Deborah Hinde, ADM Programme Manager deborah.hinde@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 2461</p>

Summary

The Education and Skills Alternative Delivery Model project was established to identify and assess possible alternative delivery models for the Education & Skills Delivery unit. This was initially presented to the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on 12th January 2015, where it was then referred to and approved by a meeting of Full Council on 20th January 2015. The report and attached outline business case identified the need to procure specialist advisors, including commercial advisors, and included an estimate of approximately £275k for the cost of the commercial advisors.

Following a competitive tender exercise, a preferred bidder has been identified and the purpose of this report is to confirm the appointment of the preferred bidder to undertake the work.

Decision

- To appoint iMPower to provide financial and commercial consultancy support to the Education and Skills Alternative Delivery Model at the quoted rates and in accordance with agreed work packages.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Education and Skills Alternative Delivery Model project was established to identify and assess possible alternative delivery models for the Education & Skills Delivery unit in light of changes to the local and national education context as well as the requirement to make significant revenue savings. At its meeting on 12th January 2015, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee considered an Outline Business Case, which concluded that a joint venture with a third party partner was the option that was most likely to meet the Council's objectives. The report was referred to Full Council on January 20th 2015, where it approved the commencement of the procurement exercise to identify a third party partner to inform the development a full business case for the joint venture option.
- 1.2 The procurement exercise is being managed by a core project team. It is a complex exercise that is being conducted under EU Procurement Regulations, using the Competitive Dialogue process. The report to Committee and the accompanying Outline Business Case identified the need to support this with specialist advisors, including commercial advisors. Within an overall budget of £1.3m, a sum of £275k was identified as the estimated cost of commercial advisors.
- 1.3 In order to secure appropriately experienced and qualified advisors in a timely manner, a "further competition" was conducted using the Pro5 National Framework Agreement No 664 for consultancy services. In accordance with the framework requirements, the six organisations that are on the Finance lot of this Agreement were invited to submit tenders for this work. Two of these organisations submitted tenders, which were duly evaluated and a preferred bidder identified.

2. REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- 2.1 Evaluation of the tenders was based on 70% quality, as assessed by the submission of three method statements covering relevant experience and approach to Competitive Dialogue, stakeholder management approach and personnel, and 30% price. Evaluation of the quotations received was carried out by a panel of three officers.
- 2.2 The total score for iMPower was 58.38%. The total score for bidder 2 was 53.33%. As a result, the preferred bidder was identified as iMPower.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 3.1 The seeking of competitive tenders through a further competition was considered to be the most appropriate route to securing appropriately qualified and experienced support in a timely and efficient manner.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 A detailed work plan will be agreed with the successful bidder to ensure that the project is delivered on time and within budget.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 This decision contributes to the development of a key project outlined in the Council's Priority Spending Review.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Framework, the cost element was evaluated on the basis of daily rates, rather than an overall sum, and the contract will also be based on this. However, bidders were required to include an estimate of the number of days' input required and this was taken into account in the quality evaluation. The estimated cost of the preferred bid is £277,646 and it is anticipated that, through careful planning and management of the bidder's input to the process, the assignment will be delivered within budget. This work will be funded from the approved allocation from the Transformation Reserve of £1.3m for the overall project.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 According to the Council Constitution's Authorisation and Acceptance Thresholds, as laid out in the 'Contract Procedure Rules, Appendix 1 – Table A', the acceptance documentation for a procurement value of over £172,514 is a Full Officer Delegated Powers Report if the proposal has already been agreed by the relevant Thematic Committee. This decision was referred from the meeting of the Children, Education, and Libraries Committee on 12th January to the meeting of Full Council on 20th January, which duly approved the recommendations as laid out in the report.

- 5.3.2 The authorisation to commence this procurement process was given by Full Council on 20th January 2015.

- 5.3.3 Further, in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, the acceptance process the Strategic Director for Commissioning has consulted with the Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding.

5.4 Risk Management

- 5.4.1 The key risk associated with this decision is the risk of cost over-run, which will be mitigated through the application of the Council's project management standards.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.5.1 There are no Equalities and Diversity implications arising out of this decision.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.6.1 There has been a comprehensive programme of consultation and engagement with schools, service users and the public that is being undertaken as part of the broader project. There are no consultation or engagement requirements in respect of this piece of work.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Minutes of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 12th January 2015 –
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g7926/Printed%20minutes%2012th-Jan-2015%2019.00%20Children%20Education%20Libraries%20Safeguarding%20Committee.pdf?T=1>

7. DECISION TAKER'S STATEMENT

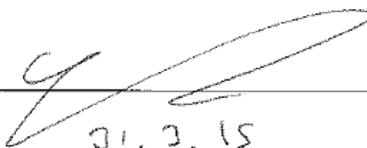
- 7.1 *I have the required powers to make the decision documented in this report. I am responsible for the report's content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision making framework of the organisation which includes Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations.*

8. OFFICER'S DECISION

I authorise the following action:

1. To appoint iMPower to provide financial and commercial consultancy support to the Education and Skills Alternative Delivery Model at the quoted rates and in accordance with agreed work packages.

Signed



CLAIRE SYMONDS

Date

31.3.15
