

	<p><b>ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY OFFICER</b>  <b>17<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b></p>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Research Project</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
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### Summary

This report seeks approval to award a single contract to Middlesex University to undertake a research project about different levels of take up of services for children, young people and families from different communities in Barnet.

### Decisions

**To award a single tender action contract to Middlesex University to undertake a research project, with a value of up to £50,000. The project is due to last no longer than 6 months.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 There is a need to undertake a research project into the different level of take up of services for children, young people and families from different communities in Barnet, and the reasons for any differences, to inform the future provision of services.
- 1.2 A single source contract is being sought from Middlesex University to undertake this project.

## **2. REASONS FOR DECISIONS**

- 2.1 A single source contract is being sought because Middlesex University are best placed to provide this service because of their significant experience in this specific field of research.
- 2.2 Middlesex University has also carried out previous research in this field and work done locally in Barnet. They would therefore be building on work previously done and on previous resources. There would not be an alternative provider that would be in this position.
- 2.3 As an organisation that is located in Barnet, they also have significant knowledge of the demographics of Barnet and being locally based will facilitate communication during the project.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 3.1 Undertaking a procurement exercise for the project was considered and rejected because after doing research it is clear that Middlesex University are best placed to undertake the project for reasons outlined above.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Once the decision has been approved the Council will enter into dialogue with Middlesex University to agree the price and requirements, however, it is not envisaged that the price will exceed £50,000. A contract will then be issued with a view to work commencing on the project in July 2016.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 This report will support the corporate priority that Barnet's children and young people will receive a great start in life.

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

This research project will require one off funding of up to £50,000, which will

come from the Transformation reserve. Once the decision has been approved the Council will enter into negotiation with Middlesex University about the price and requirements for the project to ensure value for money for the project.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 The value of £50,000 is below the Public Contract Regulation 2015 threshold.

5.3.2 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) set out limited circumstances where the Council can proceed with a single tender action. These are set out in paragraph 9.1 of the CPRs.

5.3.3 Having considered alternative means of procuring the research project services (as per 3.1 above), it has been determined that the Council may procure the services direct from Middlesex University (single source tender) pursuant to paragraph 9.1, bullet point 2, sub paragraph (ii) of the CPRs. Namely, that the services can be supplied only by a particular supplier for the reason that competition is absent for technical reasons, as supported in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3 above. Accordingly, it is reasonable to conclude that given all the circumstances, there are no reasonable alternative providers.

5.3.4 Furthermore in accordance with the CPR's, the single tender action has been approved by the Commercial and Customer Services Director. The award of contract will be recorded by means of Summary DPR and will be published online.

5.3.5 The scheme of delegation for Children and Young People provide authority to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People, to authorise this decision.

### **5.4 Risk Management**

5.4.1 If the Council does not proceed with undertaking this research project then there will not be sufficient understanding of the different levels of take up of services for children and young people in Barnet and this could have a detrimental impact for children and young people in the borough.

### **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 The provider will have due regard for the Council's Equalities and Diversity requirements in the undertaking of their appointed duties. These duties are outlined in the service specification.

The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

## 5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 No consultation undertaken.

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None

## 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**

8.1

**Signed**                      **Commissioning Director, Children and Young People**  
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**Date**                        **16/11/2016**  
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