

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Deputy Leader
2. Date:	11 February 2013
3. Title:	Schools Information Management System / Financial Management System licences and support 2013/14
4. Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

Consideration was given to a report presented by Richard Copley, Corporate ICT Manager, which

7. Proposals and Details

RMBC Schools utilise the Capita SIMS and FMS system to manage their financial, pupil and staff data. RMBC procure the annual maintenance on behalf of schools. Schools can choose in December of each year if they would like to continue subscription to the Capita license. Schools are aware of the costs for 2013/14 and will be invoiced accordingly.

A maintenance and support contract exists (renewed annually) so that Capita can provide support to the local authority (Schools Connect Team) for software issues that may arise. Capita also provides the annual upgrades and enhancements to the software for both statutory purposes and in response to customer requests.

The annual maintenance support agreement provided by Capita cannot be provided by a different software supplier. RMBC would have to carry out a full procurement exercise on behalf of schools to move to another software provider.

ICT and Procurement Services have confirmed that the provision of this support and maintenance can only be done by Capita. There are other products available in the marketplace for management information for schools but Rotherham's schools do not wish to switch to a different product and the cost of change to RMBC would be in excess of £400,000 and will take around 18 months to assess and implement.

As such a request is made for the provision of licences and support for the SIMS / FMS system to be exempt from the provisions of standing order 48.1 (requirement to invite three to six tenders for contracts with a value of over £50k) and the contract be awarded to Capita.

The cost of this support and maintenance contract for 2013/14 is £144,500.

This cost is covered by the ICT Service budget.

8. Finance

The costs outlined above are covered by existing budgets, as indicated.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The SIMS and FMS are crucial to the running of a Schools day-to-day business. Schools use SIMS to complete statutory returns and it works seamlessly with RMBCs central pupil MIS system Capita One. The Capita One system is utilised by a number of RMBC departments including Education Welfare, Transport, SEN, Free School Meals.

The alternative for schools is that they purchase a licence direct from Capita and withdraw from the Council's licence, in which case RMBC would be unable to purchase annual maintenance on their behalf. The average primary school would be charged £10,000 including £3,000 annual maintenance in the first year and £3,000 each subsequent year.

The same sized primary school pays £1,100 in annual maintenance under the Local authority licence – this represents a significant saving for our schools.

If RMBC did not offer this service to schools, any alternative management information system may not work seamlessly with RMBCs central system (Capita One). This has the potential to cause significant safeguarding issues as the data in held in the One system is accessed by frontline services such as Social Care, Early Help Team including CAF and these services rely on data being accurate.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

As mentioned above – the lack of a single education management system would threaten our ability to easily share data between schools and RMBC and could hamper our safeguarding activities.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation has taken place with colleagues in Finance and Procurement Services and all have confirmed agreement with the proposals for 2013/14.

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