

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES'
SERVICES
10th April, 2013**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors Beaumont, Dalton and Havenhand.

D98. ESUITE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE - EXEMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning and the Early Years and Childcare Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services. The report related to a request to exempt an existing contract from Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite at least three written quotations for contracts valued between £20,000 and £50,000) for the financial year to 31st March, 2014.

The contract was with Capita Children's Services and provided performance and activity monitoring software, called the eSuite Data Managing System, for the Local Authority's twenty-two Children's Centres. Children's Centres used the software to record information about the families they worked with and each contact they made in order to monitor essential delivery requirements, the Service's 'reach', and uptake of services generally and by vulnerable groups in particular. The software was used to monitor Children's Centres' performance against Sure Start's 'Children's Centre Statutory Guidance' and Ofsted's 'Children's Centre Inspection Guidance' framework documents.

A request to exempt Standing Order 47.6.3 had been made as it was unfeasible to invite tenders from alternative suppliers as they would require the full replacement of existing software in each of the twenty-two settings. This would incur additional excessive costs.

The submitted report noted that the contract price for 2013/14 would be met within existing budgets.

Discussion ensued, and the following issues were raised: -

- Risks to the Service's business continuity if the contract underwent a tendering process;
- Did other providers exist who could provide software that was compatible with eSuite Data Management?;
- Use of the software programme to provide detailed data analysis and a profile of the local area. This would be useful for Elected Members and other stakeholders to understand their local area's profile.

Resolved: - That Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite at least three written quotations for contracts valued between £20,000 to £50,000) be exempted and the contract for support and maintenance of the eSuite Data Management software be awarded to Capita Children's Services for the 2013/14 financial year.

D99. TRIBAL SYNERGY - SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE ON THE SOFTWARE USED BY THE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE - EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS.

Consideration was given to the report presented by the Director of Schools and Lifelong Learning and the Early Years and Childcare Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services. The report related to a request to exempt an existing contract from Standing Order 47.6.2 (requirement to invite at least two oral or written quotations for contracts valued between £5,000 and £20,000) for the financial year to 31st March, 2014.

The contract was with Tribal Synergy and provided a licence, hosting and support and maintenance of software used by the Family Information Service within Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services. The Family Information Service had a duty under the Childcare Act's provisions around information provision. This software collated, stored and managed information on local childcare services and activities, so that advice could be provided to parents and carers, and also to co-ordinate and monitor the training of childcare providers.

A request to exempt Standing Order 47.6.2 had been made as it was unfeasible to invite tenders from alternative suppliers as they would require the full replacement of existing software, which would incur excessive costs. The Council's Information Technology and Procurement Services had confirmed that Tribal Synergy were the only supplier who would be able to provide support and maintenance of the existing product.

Failure to maintain the contract would impact on the Family Information Service's ability to provide information and advice on childcare services and would prevent the Local Authority from meeting the information duty of the Childcare Act.

The submitted report noted that the contract price for 2013/14 would be met within existing budgets.

Resolved: - That Standing Order 47.6.2 (requirement to invite at least two oral or written quotations for contracts valued between £5,000 and £20,000) be exempted and the contract for support and maintenance be awarded to Tribal Synergy for the 2013/14 financial year.

(Subsequent to the meeting, His Worshipful The Mayor exempted this decision from the call-in procedure.)

D100. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services take place on Wednesday 24th April, 2013, to start at 9.00 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.