

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Deputy Leader
2.	Date:	June 10th 2013
3.	Title:	Rotherham Grid for Learning – Migration from Microsoft Live@edu to Microsoft Office 365
4.	Directorate:	EDS

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Member approval to invoke Standing Order 35, which permits exemption from normal contract standing orders. This is to allow Oxford Computer Group, to undertake the upgrade of the Microsoft Live@edu school email service provision to the replacement Microsoft Office 365 service.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- **the contract for the upgrading of the school's email system and associated re-integration with Rotherham Grid for Learning be exempt from the provisions of standing order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite at least 3 written quotations for contracts with a value of between £20k and £50k) and the contract be awarded to Oxford Computer Group.**

7. Proposals and Details

Microsoft currently provides the online Live@edu email system to staff and pupils of Rotherham's schools. It is a free to users, bespoke email package specially designed for the education environment and has been used by our schools for the last 3 years. The Live@edu system has been integrated with the Rotherham Grid for Learning (RGfL) domain to allow for pupils and staff to have single sign-on to the service and emails to be sent securely between Rotherham's schools and RMBC. The integration platform was developed, deployed and is maintained by Oxford Computer Group (OCG).

Microsoft have announced that they will discontinue the Live@edu service in July 2013 and replace it with their new 'Office 365 for Schools' service. This change will mean that OCG will be required to re-write their integration platform such that the integration between RGfL and Live@edu is removed and replaced with integration between RGfL and Office 365. We have approached Oxford Computer Group to submit a priced proposal to undertake the upgrade of students and staff from Live@edu to Office 365.

The value of the proposal is an initial investment of £45,835 followed by annual payments of £9,575. Because OCG implemented, manage and maintain the existing Live@edu service for RMBC they are the only supplier able to upgrade service. No other feasible alternatives exist; the cost for any other organisation to develop an interface would be substantially in excess of the price quoted and the development, testing and implementation processes would cause disruption to users during the transition period.

It is therefore recommended that the contract for the upgrading of the school's email system and associated re-integration with Rotherham Grid for Learning be exempt from the provisions of standing order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite at least 3 written quotations for contracts with a value of between £20k and £50k) and the contract be awarded to Oxford Computer Group.

8. Finance

The value of the proposal is £45,835 in one-off investment with an on-going payment of £9,575 for support and maintenance. This will be funded from exiting CYPS ICT budgets and is ultimately recouped from schools as part of the RGfL service.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to undertake the upgrade will result in the loss of the email service for pupils and school.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Policy and performance issues are discussed elsewhere.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation has taken place with colleagues CYPS, ICT and Procurement Services and all have confirmed agreement with the proposals.

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