


REPORT TO CABINET

17 April 2019

Subject:	Schools Workforce Training and Development Support and Governance Support Services
Presenting Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Hackett - Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Director:	Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan (28 day notice) Reference:	SMBC04/04/2019
Cabinet Member Approval and Date:	Councillor Simon Hackett:
Director Approval:	Chris Ward:
Reason for Urgency:	Urgency provisions do not apply.
Exempt Information Ref:	No exemption applies
Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):	No ward councillor consultation is required
Scrutiny Consultation Considered?	This report has not been presented to Scrutiny
Contact Officer(s):	Andy Timmins, Group Head Education Skills and Employment. andrew_timmins@sandwell.gov.uk Andy Jukes Procurement Business Partner andy_jukes@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the award of the contract for Schools Workforce Training and Development Support for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) and Governance to SIPS Education Ltd for the sum of £300,000 for three (3) years with the option to extend the contract to four (4) years for an additional £100,000 (1 June 2019 to 31 May 2022/23).
2. That the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer sign any necessary agreement to enable Resolution (1) above to take effect.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval to award the contract to SIPS Education Ltd following the procurement exercise to provide the necessary support for maintained schools for Workforce Training and Development Support for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) and Governance.

2 IMPLICATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S AMBITION

- 2.1 People, Ambition 4 - High quality support for our workforce in Sandwell schools is extremely important if our children are to receive good quality education throughout their school careers to enable them to make the best possible start in life. This support is specifically aimed at NQTs and governors.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The support package is designed to ensure that all maintained schools meet their statutory obligations in relation to governance and workforce (NQTs).
- 3.2 This service will provide school leadership support & HR guidance, including policy development support to schools in relation to NQTs. The service will also support the council to deliver its responsibility to act as the appropriate body for NQT induction under the Induction Arrangements for School Teachers (England) Regulations 2012.
- 3.3 The service will also ensure that the Council can maintain and develop a successful support programme, which improves the quality of governance across all maintained schools.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The current contract with SIPS Education has been in place since 2016 and has provided an effective package of support to NQTs and to governors in Sandwell maintained schools.
- 4.2 The contract has been monitored every quarter and the contractor has worked closely with us during this period to deliver an effective service.
- 4.3 A procurement exercise has been recently undertaken to secure future support for NQTs and for Governors in schools. Due to the value of the contract this procurement exercise was carried out in accordance with EU Procurement Regulations and advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).
- 4.4 Following the tender return deadline, two (2) valid submissions were received and evaluated in accordance with the published evaluation criteria of 50% price and 50% quality.
- 4.5 Following evaluation, the most economically advantageous tender submitted was that of Sandwell SIPS Ltd with an overall score of 81.66%.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 Corporate Procurement Services – Andy Jukes, Procurement Business Partner advised on the procurement process and facilitated an EU compliant tender exercise.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no viable alternatives to this proposed package of support within the Council as no internal resources are available.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There is insufficient capacity within the Council to deliver these packages of support to NQTs and Governors.
- 7.2 The tendered cost of the contract has been set at £100,000 per annum for three (3) years with an option to extend this contract for a further one (1) year period (1 June 2019 to 31 May 2022/23).
- 7.3 The contract renewal costing represents a 33% saving over previous years whilst maintaining the existing level of service. The successful tenderer has demonstrated that they are able to deliver this service within the constraints of the new budget.

7.4 The corporate risk management strategy has been complied with to identify and assess the risks associated with the decisions being sought. This has concluded that there are no significant risks to report. Suitable measures are in place to ensure the contract is effectively monitored to ensure it delivers the required services.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 An EU compliant procurement process has been conducted in accordance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

8.2 Legal Services were consulted prior to issue of tender documentation.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 Clauses contained within the tender documentation requiring compliance with all Acts and Codes of Practice applicable for equality and diversity have been included.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 Clauses contained within the contract terms and conditions ensure the service provider complies with all statutory data and GDPR Regulations.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications associated with the provision of this service.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 There no sustainability implications associated with the provision of this service.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 Council Ambition 4 aspires to provide children with the best start in life with high quality education throughout the school career. In order to achieve this ambition they require outstanding support from their teachers.

13.2 The purpose of this service is to ensure that teachers and governors within Sandwell have the best possible support to deliver this ambition.

- 13.3 The quality evaluation questions within the tender document were specifically designed to evaluate tenderers ability to provide a high quality service which contributes to the Council's Vision 2030 ambitions.
- 13.4 Sandwell SIPS Ltd are based within Sandwell and their appointment will ensure that employment and the local economy continues to be supported.

14 **IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND**

- 14.1 There is no impact on Council managed property or land.

15 **CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 15.1 There are statutory implications for the council if these support packages are not in place both for governance and for the support of NQTs. It is therefore recommended that this contract award is approved to ensure that our schools receive the necessary support needed to ensure that our children are to have the best possible start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers.
- 15.2 The current service provider, Sandwell SIPS Ltd has provided a good quality service over the past three years and their recent tender submission for the new contract was judged through the council's procurement process to be the most suitable based on value for money and quality of service. Approval of this contract award would ensure continuity to the service that is delivered to schools.
- 15.3 The cost of the contract has reduced from £150,000 to £100,000 per annum and will run for three years plus an optional one year extension. This represents a significant saving to the council.

16 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 None

17 **APPENDICES:**

None

Chris Ward
Director – Education, Skills and Employment