

# **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

## **CABINET**

**2 SEPTEMBER 2010**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

#### **CONSULTANCY SUPPORT FOR NWIEP EFFICIENCY COMMISSION**

##### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. Cabinet on 24 June 2010 agreed to Wirral Council becoming the Accountable Body for the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Efficiency Commission.
- 1.2 This report informs Cabinet of the engagement of Hind Consultancy Services to support the delivery of the Northwest Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP), Efficiency Commission Programme commencing on 1 July 2010 for one year.

##### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 NWIEP operates eight different commissions, and the most successful last year, in terms of delivery, was the Efficiency Commission. When reviewing expenditure for the current year it was recognised that efficiency must be the most important priority in the coming year.
- 2.2 Hind Consultancy Services has supported the Efficiency Commission in the successful delivery of the programme for the past year.
- 2.3 The Efficiency Commission, which is Chaired by the Leader of Chorley Council and is attended by representatives of all the sub-regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships, agreed at its last meeting, unanimously, to continue with the engagement of Hind Consultancy Services to support delivery of the efficiency programme for the coming year.
- 2.4 This year the responsibility for delivery of the Efficiency Commission Programme rests with Wirral Council as the Chief Executive has been appointed as lead by NWIEP.
- 2.5 The cost of the consultancy support for the twelve months from the 1 July 2010 is £55,000.

##### **3. CONTRACT PROCEDURE**

- 3.1 As Accountable Body for the Efficiency Commission Programme it is the responsibility of the Council to engage with Hind Consultancy Services to support the delivery of the programme for the coming year.

3.2 Hind Consultancy Services is unique in delivering support for the programme. Their involvement in the previous year means that they are fully conversant, not just with the programme but, perhaps more importantly, with the key people who are going to deliver it.

3.3 Therefore under the Council Contracts Procedure Rule 5.1.1: a contract can be awarded.

'Where there is only one viable supplier and there would be no genuine competition.' This action must be reported to Cabinet or the appropriate regulatory committee.

An official order has been placed with Hind Consultancy Services to support the Efficiency Commission programme for the coming year commencing on 1 July 2010.

#### **4. FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The funding for this consultancy work is provided by the NWIEP.

#### **5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

#### **6. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no planning implications.

#### **7. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no implications under this heading.

#### **8. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no implications under this heading.

#### **9. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no implications under this heading.

#### **10. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS.**

10.1 There are no particular implications for any Members or wards.

#### **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 NWIEP Efficiency Commission Programme Delivery Plan.

## **12. RECOMMENDATION**

- 12.1 That Cabinet endorses engagement of Hind Consultancy Services to support the delivery of the NWIEP Efficiency Commission Programme.

IAN COLEMAN  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

FNCE/146/10