

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

12 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT	CORPORATE TRAINING CONTRACT
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	COUNCILLOR ADRIAN JONES
KEY DECISION	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to participate in a collaborative arrangement with other Merseyside Authorities for the procurement of externally provided training. This is believed to offer potential to deliver savings of 10% of current costs.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees to join the Merseyside Collaborative Contract for externally provided training.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1. As part of the continuing drive for efficiency officers are exploring different ways of procuring goods, works and services. This has led to a number of collaborative arrangements with other Merseyside Councils where combined purchasing power has led to efficiencies and consistency of supply. Recent examples include Merseyside-wide contracts for Business Consultancy, Coring and the engagement of Agency Staff.
- 3.2 The Council spent £1,504,241 on training in 2010-11. Much of this is spent on providers operating across Merseyside. This training is similar, if not identical, to that being purchased by other local authorities. An opportunity exists to collaborate and achieve better value for money through aggregating purchasing power.
- 3.3 In accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules Cabinet is required to agree such a contract. The savings potential will be included in a report on procurement efficiencies to be presented to Cabinet.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Expenditure on training is summarised in the following table. The budget for 2011-12 totals £2,003,100. Should a price reduction of 10% be realised this equates to a budgetary saving of £200,000.

4.2 Table 1 (2010-11 Expenditure on Training)

Department	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget
Law, HR and Asset Management	169,354	103,000
Regeneration, Housing and Planning	51,630	31,400
Children & Young People	649,603	1,162,300
Finance	153,520	244,500
Adult Social Services	383,616	350,300
Technical Services	96,519	111,600
Total Council	1,504,242	2,003,100

4.3 The Organisational Development Manager has been working with colleagues in St Helens Council to develop this arrangement. The approved partner is MATRIX SCM who already hold collaborative contracts with Merseyside Councils, including Wirral, for the recruitment of Agency Staff and Business Consultancy. This experience has proven the savings potential of 10%.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 Local training providers unwilling to participate in the collaboration may suffer from lost business opportunities. In order for the savings to be realised training organisers need to comply with the terms of the contract and only engage trainers who participate with the collaboration. This will be monitored by the Corporate Procurement Board with non-compliance escalated as appropriate.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 No other option was considered in developing this proposal

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Organisational Development Manager has been in consultation with all Departments to ensure their training needs can continue to be met.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are no implications.

9.0. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1. **Financial.** Current expenditure is approximately £1.5m against a budget provision of £2m. This underspend has two underlying causes. It may be reflective of a reduction in certain training activity whilst the Council has been going through major restructuring and in some cases it may have been a temporary measure to offset overspends on other areas. It is suggested neither are sustainable.

9.2. **Staffing.** No additional staffing resources will be required. Participating in a managed service like this should simplify the process of identifying training providers on a bespoke basis.

9.3. There are no IT or Asset implications.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The engagement will be entered into in accordance with public procurement regulations and European Union Directives

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no equality implications and so an EIA is not required

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Collaborating on training could have a positive impact through reduced business travel of staff and training providers.

13.0. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no implications

FNCE/289/11

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	