

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

15 MARCH 2012

SUBJECT:	NORTH WEST LIBRARY BOOK PURCHASING CONSORTIUM: CONTRACT EXTENSION
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR LESLEY RENNIE
KEY DECISION:	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the decision of the North West Libraries Consortium of which Wirral is a member to extend a purchasing contract for a period of 12 months up to 31 March 2013.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Wirral has been a member of the North West Libraries Consortium for a number of years. There are 20 local authorities in the Consortium which is led by Stockport MBC. There is also a Yorkshire Consortium made up of a number of Library services. The main purpose is by working as a much larger purchaser than any individual service the Consortium is able to achieve economies of scale when tendering for purchasing contracts and subscriptions with suppliers which an individual local authority could not achieve.

2.2 The Consortium offers a joint book purchasing contract, framework agreements for periodicals and magazines, the E-Books service supplied by OverDrive, and the Smart SM software system. There are also a number of on line resource agreements including Oxford University Press News and Who Else Writes Like service.

2.3 The current contract was awarded for three years from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2012 and was won by Bertrams a leading supplier to Libraries. Between the North West and Yorkshire there are 33 local authorities using this service and the Consortia have agreed to extend the contract for one year to 31 March 2013. The service is expected to go out to tender during 2012 with an award in late 2012 with the new contract in place for 1 April 2013.

2.4 The Wirral book budget is £509,000 of which £400,000 will be spent through this contract. The suppliers have a sophisticated system, Smart SM, which assists staff in ordering books taking account of other local authorities preferences and purchases as well as our own previous purchases.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 Without this contract Wirral would have to renegotiate a contract individually and pay more for books as well as staff having to spend more time deciding on and administering the purchases.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The option would be to purchase in a stand alone capacity as a single Authority which brings cost and resource issues as outlined above.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 None specific are required of this matter.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS; FINANCIAL, IT, STAFFING & ASSETS

7.1 **Financial** – The book budget for Wirral is £509,000. Remaining in the Consortium minimises both the costs of administration and the payments to suppliers by gaining a significant discount which could not be negotiated for Wirral alone.

7.2 **IT** – None arising from this report.

7.3. **Staffing** – None arising from this report.

7.4. **Assets** – None arising from this report.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific equality implications arising from this report.

9.2. An Equality Impact Assessment for the service has been completed as part of the recent Customer Access & Library Strategy development, the link is; <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/finance>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That Members agree the extension of the contract.

13.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

13.1 To inform Members of the extension of the contract and the reason for it.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last three years)

Council Meeting	Date