

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

21 JUNE 2012

SUBJECT:	GOVERNORS SUPPORT SHARED SERVICE PROCUREMENT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR TONY SMITH
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of the Governor Support Services shared service with Cheshire East a comprehensive online and telephone support service is required as part of the overall package. The report outlines in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules an Exception to the Procurement Procedure as detailed below.
- 1.2 The report does not contain exempt information.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 On the 12th April 2012 Cabinet gave approval for Wirral Council to enter formally into the shared Governor Support Service with Cheshire East as the lead authority.
- 2.2 As part of this shared service, procurement was taking place for an external service, TEN Governor Support (TGS), by Cheshire East, the lead authority. Cheshire East has used delegated authority to approve the procurement for its schools and possibly for other schools in the other local authorities. Because of the success of Wirral's School Improvement Service, Education Quality (EQ), with a buyback for 2012/13 estimated at 92%, the value of the Wirral element of the cost of this service, funded from school resources, is higher than anticipated. Therefore it is necessary, in the short term, for each authority to secure their own provision of the governor online and telephone support service for its governors in its Wirral schools in line with the shared service.
- 2.3 TGS is an on-line and telephone information and support service for governors in England. It provides practical, expertly researched and time-saving answers to questions about leadership and management in schools directly requested from those governors so that the information is relevant and topical. It disseminates knowledge and best practice among school leaders and governors whilst saving

valuable time and resources for schools. It has the potential to support improved leadership in schools in a time and cost efficient way. This product was developed originally through a government funded project aimed at improving school leadership by better sharing knowledge. This product is unique so it is not possible to enter into a competitive procurement process. However, through the process undertaken by Cheshire East, it is apparent that significant improved value for money position has been achieved for the product TGS.

- 2.4 All costs will be recovered through the fees charged to schools through EQ and the LA would only purchase a school subscription for those schools that are part of EQ on an annual basis, so there are no risks to the Council in terms of costs not being fully met.
- 2.5 TGS is the only such service currently on the market. It is a new product but is already being used by a number of schools across the country and is a high quality service supported by appropriate expertise. It offers a key enhancement to the authority's support to governors.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 It is important that the current high quality training, support, advice and other services that are provided to Wirral governors are maintained and enhanced.
- 3.2 If all schools were to withdraw from EQ in 2013/14 or it was decided not to offer EQ in 2013/14, the council could enact a termination of contract clause within the contract with TGS.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 A market mapping process was carried out to ascertain the unique fit of this service into the current infrastructure of the Governor Shared Service. The results concluded that although products with characteristics of TGS could be found, these products are not already specifically designed for schools.
- 4.2 Cheshire East will consider seeking to procure a governor online service for 2013/14 under OJEU rules on behalf of all local authorities involved in the shared service to avoid the individual need to tender.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation as part of the EQ consultation has taken place with all Chairs of governors at locality events and with the EQ Management Board over the provision of TGS within the governor support service.
- 5.2 The corporate procurement team have been consulted on this proposal.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 The procurement of TGS would enhance service delivery to Wirral's largest group of volunteers, school governors.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 The contract will be funded from schools resources.

7.2 The cost of procurement over the two years is dependent on the number of schools buying back into EQ. It is estimated that 120 schools are buying back into EQ for 2012/13 at a cost of £400 for TGS per school which gives a total cost of £48000. For the second year 2013/14 it is estimated that 85% of schools (110) will buy back into EQ at a cost of £450 for TGS per school, which gives a total of £49,500.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The contract will be awarded following the Authority's Contract Procedure Rules and has been discussed with the Director of Finance.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No because there is no relevance to equality.

An impact review was done for the original shared services cabinet report on April 12th 2012 and is accessed at:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That Cabinet notes this Exception to the Procurement Procedure for the TEN Governor Support service.

13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

13.1 Contract Procedure Rules require exceptions to procurement procedures, where there is only one contractor or supplier and there is no genuine competition, to be reported to Cabinet.

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Report on Governors Support Shared Service to Cabinet	12 April 2012
Report on Governor Support Services to CYP Overview and Scrutiny	26 January 2011