

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT AGENDA ITEM No. 17

To: <b>Education Resources Sub-Committee</b>	Subject:  <b>Education 2010 Appointment of Specialist Contractor for the schools ICT managed service</b>
From: <b>Director of Education</b>	
Date: <b>25<sup>th</sup> July 2006</b>	
Ref: <b>MM/RD/LE</b>	

**Summary**

This report details the outcome of the tender for a schools area wide network managed service.

**Recommendations**

The education resources sub-committee is recommended;

- i) to request that in accordance with the delegation given to the Director of Administration that the tender for Alfred McAlpine PLC be processed for acceptance.



Members wishing further information about the paper should contact:

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**Education 2010 Appointment of Specialist Contractor  
for the schools ICT managed service**

Report by the Director of Education

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In 1999 the education committee approved the development of an ICT network covering all school establishments. Government funding through the National Grid for Learning initiative was made available to all authorities for the purpose. After competitive tender the successful contractor was Stiehl Networks. The second phase of this programme was tendered in 2000 and again Stiehl Networks was the successful bidder.
- 1.2 In 2002 an extension to this tender to upgrade the service to broadband connectivity for all establishments was approved. That contract is due to finish in October 2006.
- 1.3 The out sourced service includes the following elements:
- Configuration, maintenance and monitoring of all wide area network devices and services
  - Disaster recovery arrangements for critical services
  - Wide area network security services
  - Authentication and remote access services
  - Internet domain address resolution
  - Internet access and WWW content filtering services
  - Electronic mail relay and content filtering services
  - Technical support helpdesk
  - Monitoring and reporting on all services
- 1.4 The network has operated very efficiently and there is a high level of satisfaction among staff with the service provision. As a result the impact of ICT on learning and teaching has been increasingly beneficial.

**2. TENDER PROCESS**

- 2.1 In compliance with financial regulations and OJEU directives an invitation to tender for the North Lanarkshire Council Schools Wide Area Network Managed Service was issued.
- 2.2 Two compliant bids were received. These were evaluated by a panel comprising education, corporate procurement, corporate IT and Authorities Buying Consortium (ABC). The evaluation criteria covered cost and service quality and were in line with North Lanarkshire Council standing orders and CIPFA guidance.

2.3 The bids are detailed below.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>before checking</u>	<u>after checking</u>
Steria Ltd	£929,425	£929,425
Alfred McAlpine PLC	£392,130	£392,130

2.4 The lowest compliant offer was that submitted by Alfred McAlpine PLC of £392,130. The contract period is three years from October 2006 with an option to extend on a yearly basis for a further 3 years. The projected annual spend over the next 3 years is £130,170.

2.5 The funding for this contract will be allocated from the NGL section of the National Priority Action Fund.

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The education resources sub-committee is recommended;

- i) to request that in accordance with the delegation given to the Director of Administration that the tender from Alfred McAlpine be processed for acceptance.

MM/RD/LE  
25/7/06