

To: EDUCATION COMMITTEE		Subject: PROVISION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COURSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ESTABLISHMENTS – OUTCOME OF PROCUREMENT PROCESS
From: HEAD OF EDUCATION (SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING)		
Date: 30 JANUARY 2017	Ref: LMCM/EW	

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the action taken to award contracts through a Stage 2 contract (notice published in via the Public Contracts Scotland Portal reference SEP255946 dated 02/09/2016) for a Framework Agreement for the provision of Vocational Education courses for young people across all North Lanarkshire Council secondary schools and establishments for the period from October 2016 to June 2019.

2. Background

For a number of years an ad hoc approach had been taken to the provision of vocational education courses via external providers to provide support, develop skills and offer a range of task-related experiences to better prepare young for the demands of the world of work. Young people who benefit from these courses are within the senior phase of learning.

Education, Youth and Communities therefore required to further develop the use of external providers for the provision of vocational education courses for young people across all secondary schools and establishments.

The scope of the requirements of external providers was to:

- work with Education, Youth and Communities to identify the most appropriate courses relevant in schools and establishments today;
- deliver the agreed programme of courses at an appropriate SCQF level;
- deliver interventions as part of the overall vocational education programme to promote an inclusive ethos in schools and the wider community;
- work with school staff to identify progression pathways for all young people engaged in vocational courses;
- support all participants in the programme into positive and sustained destinations;
- provide course information to young people and parents about the courses being delivered;
- work closely with Education, Youth and Communities and its partner organisations including Skills Development Scotland (SDS) to provide regular monitoring/progress updates (a minimum of termly) to include both quantitative and qualitative data; and
- identify and develop relevant continuing professional development opportunities for appropriate staff.

3. Considerations

3.1 Outcome of Procurement Process

The level of spend for the contract was estimated at £150,000 per annum. The council sought to put a framework agreement in place for a period of 3 years with an option to extend at the end of this period for a further year.

Given that the value of the framework agreement was c £450k, the procurement was conducted in accordance with the Scottish Procurement Regulations and advertised in the Official Journal for the European Union (OJEU). The corporate procurement team supported the process. Roles and responsibilities were agreed within a RACI (Responsible, Accountable, Supportive, Consulted, Informed) document.

A team was established, led by Education, Youth and Communities that included head teachers, to devise the framework for delivery, to establish clear guidelines and measurable targets.

The framework agreement is based on the most economically advantageous tender to the Council. Tenders were evaluated using a cost/quality ratio of 25% price and 75% quality.

3.2 Outcome of Tender Evaluation

The outcome of the tender evaluation is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Tender Evaluation Scores

Tenderer Name	Weighted Price Score	Weighted Qualitative Score	Total Tender Score	Final Rank
Action for Children Services Ltd	withdrew	withdrew	withdrew	-
Cullisvale Services Ltd T/A The Scottish Training Foundation	80%	58%	80.58	5
First Steps Future Training Limited	80%	77%	80.77	2
Forward Training Partnership Ltd	80%	75%	80.75	3
Lagta Group Training	60%	77%	60.77	6
Lanarkshire Catering School	80%	70%	80.70	4
The Springboard Charity and Springboard UK	80%	85%	80.85	1

Due to the need to ensure that the framework contract arrangements were in place as soon as possible to support young people in the Additional Support Needs education sector, arrangements were made to progress tender acceptance.

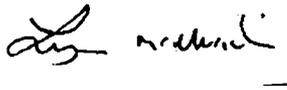
4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Financial Implications

The funding for the establishment of a contract for the supply of vocational education courses will be met from the Education Skills and Lifelong Learning budget allocation for the provision of vocational education.

5. Recommendations

The Education Skills and Youth Employment Committee is asked to homologate the action taken to award of the framework contract for vocational education courses to the six contractors outlined in Section 3.2 of this report.



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