

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4813

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Department:

Resident Services

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Subject:

E resources tender (e-newspapers,e- magazines and e-books) as part of a consortium

Total Value:

£231,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1. To approve participation in a formal tender process with Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries (Midlands), Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Rutland County Council as part of a consortium to obtain e-Resources (e-books, e-magazines, e-newspapers and e-audio titles) which will be available to all library members in the participating authorities' areas.2. To authorise Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries to undertake a tender process on behalf of the Council, which will include the other participating authorities, and to award a contract for up to six years (4 + 1 + 1) with the supplier(s) offering the most economically advantageous tender for one or more lots in accordance with the published award criteria and to enter into appropriate contractual documentation for the purpose of calling off orders under the framework(s). 3. To approve the Council entering into a Collaboration Agreement with Inspire and the other participating authorities to capture the objectives of the consortium in delivering these library services.4. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Communities,

Environment and Resident Services to approve the contract award prior to Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries entering into this contract on behalf of the consortium.5. To approve expenditure for e-Resources in accordance with the estimated spend to the Council of £38,500 per annum.6. To support the implementation of the resulting contract corporately to ensure the value for money benefits of the process are fully realised.

Reasons for the Decision(s) We are currently part of a consortium (including Inspire, Derby, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland) to buy our e-Resources from three suppliers. These contracts expire 31 March 2023. Being a part of this consortium has enabled us to achieve many efficiencies: in sharing platform costs, sharing titles and offering a far more extensive collection of titles than could reasonably be afforded as a single authority. Two or more authorities sharing titles will give best value for money and improve the service we can offer. The current consortium has proved a successful working relationship with financial benefits for all parties, and Leicester City now wish to join the consortium for their e-Magazines and e-Newspaper services, which will then afford greater efficiencies for all parties.

Other Options Considered:

1. To discontinue the e-Resources services altogether in our libraries. This was rejected, as this is now a core part of the Library Service offer that continues to expand, and allows greater equality of access for people who are visually impaired. e-Resources are accessible across the City and offer equality of access to all titles.

2. Continue to buy our e-resources as a single authority. This was rejected, as it is a more expensive option than buying as part of a consortium, and will mean that we are unable to expand our service to comparable levels with other authorities without increasing our expenditure significantly.

Background Papers: none

Published Works: none

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: none

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this service development.

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: EIA not required. Reasons: This is not a new policy, it is a continuation of our existing service.

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 16/01/2023

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

The combined procurement of e-resources with other local authorities by way of a consortium, seeks to achieve efficiencies and expand resources offered for library services within the City.

Inspire will undertake and be responsible for the procurement process and contractual documentation but the City Council will be involved in the evaluation process and be responsible for paying for relevant service charges when due.

The Council will need to review and contribute to the proposed Collaboration Agreement and Framework Agreement arrangements as necessary to ensure it correctly reflects the Council's requirements, involvement and obligations pursuant to Article 18.85 of the Contract Procedure Rules. Legal services will support the service area throughout the process as and when required.

Anthony Heath, Senior Solicitor, 17th November 2022
Advice provided by Anthony Heath (Senior Solicitor) on 17/11/2022.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to incur expenditure upto a maximum of £0.231m over the possible maximum period of the contract of 6 years. The current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes budget provision to purchase resources for the Library Service, as outlined in this decision. Continuing with a collaborative tendering approach with other library authorities will ensure the Council secures best value.

The budget provision in future years will be subject to an annual refresh of the MTFP, and therefore the Head of Service for Libraries will need to ensure there are adequate resources before making purchases.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 20/11/2022.

Procurement Advice:

The decision to be taken raises no significant procurement concerns.

The procurement is being administered by Inspire who have previously ran the tendering process for NCC and a number of other Local Authorities to our satisfaction.

Procurement have reviewed the tender documents and are happy for the process to proceed, NCC will also be included in the evaluation process. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 29/11/2022.

Signatures

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| Pavlos Kotsonis (Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Planning) |
| SIGNED and Dated: 05/01/2023 |
| Frank Jordan (CD Communities Environment Resident Services) |
| SIGNED and Dated: 09/01/2023 |