

Operational Decision Record

Publication Date 03 July 2023	Decision Reference Number 4979
Decision Title	
External Swimming Teacher Contract - Lenton & Portland	
Decision Value	
£129,000	
Revenue or Capital Spend?	
Revenue	
Department	
People	
Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)	
Claire Moores – Service Manager, Claire.Moores@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Decision Taken	
To enter into contracts for pool hire at The Lenton Centre and Portland Leisure Centre, for use of the pool to deliver swimming lessons to local schools, for up to three years starting on 1st September 2023 at a cost of £43,000 per year.	
Reasons for Decision and Background Information	
<p>To enter into contracts for pool hire at The Lenton Centre and Portland Leisure Centre, for up to 3 years (1,1+1+1 at a cost of £43,000 per year) starting on 1 September 2023.</p> <p>Lenton Pool is a direct award and exemption is also complete. Portland will go through a robust ITT tender with the support of our procurement teams.</p> <p>The benefits of this to children and young people are that they can use pools in close location to the schools, which allows better use of school time in the classroom rather than travel and not losing valuable learning time within the school day.</p> <p>The benefits to Nottingham City Council are: The geographical locations for both swimming centres will ensure the city's carbon foot print is minimised by reducing or removing the needs for travel to other larger leisure centres in the city by using transport at a further cost to the school. The schools only in the geographical areas of Portland and Lenton will utilise the associated pools.</p>	

Reasons for recommendations

The service is currently in place, well established and successful delivery model at external swimming pools, both in terms of cost recovery and feedback/reputation and National Curriculum outcomes.

Authorisation is sought to continue to procure external pool hire on the basis that there is a proven track record of financial viability on a traded basis and that doing so contributes positively to children and young people's learning, personal development and a number of elements of the Council Plan.

The National Curriculum for schools in the geographical areas supports the best value strategy.

Other Options Considered and why these were rejected

Using vehicles to transport children to another city owned leisure centre was rejected as it could reduce the number of swimming lessons schools book due to have the financial implication of paying for additional transport where schools currently do not need this as they can walk at the moment in the locations already established.

The pool space isn't available in the city pools at this current time which means school would have to source external commitments.

Allowing Lenton and Portland to deliver contracts externally would provide less assurances of quality of delivery, best value, and attainment standards/reporting.

Going out to tender for alternative swimming pool provision in the wider county was rejected due to the need to keep the provision local to school area to avoid the risk of additional transport costs and the potential reduction of lessons that the school could afford, and classroom learning times due to travel.

Reasons why this decision is classified as operational

School Swimming is a statutory learning outcome in the National Curriculum for all Primary schools, schools must book pool hire instruction, and manage travel.

School Swimming facilitates educational lesson to ensure the learning outcomes are provided for every school pupil in the most sustainable way possible.

Using local facilities are key to ensure travel is kept a minimum, National Curriculum outcomes are achieved and lessons financially viable to school to access. Without the use of local provisions, schools would face a reduction of learning inside the classroom due to extended travel and costs for transport.

As a traded service If the service does not work with local operators fully, we may lose schools to either direct competition offers by these operators, where quality and finances could be impacted, and no longer under local authority procedures, where none delegable duty of care applies.

Additional Information

Chris Ayriss – Finance

By providing the necessary financial support in regular monitoring and administering of the budget, to ensure the use of funds are compliant to financial reporting policies in which revenue expenditure meets conditions also set by procurement.

The budget and pricing strategy will ensure 100% cost recovery from the supplier, this will ensure that the traded service remains commercially sustainable bearing no financial impact on the wider business.

Holly Fisher – Procurement

This requirement falls under the Light Touch Regime Services (threshold of £663,540 inclusive of VAT, CPV 80000000-4 Education and training services to 80660000-8) and so is well below the PCR thresholds. Both a direct award and competitive procedure pose minimal procurement risk to the council.

Procurement will assist in finding the most commercially viable and compliant solution for the council ensuring contract procedure rules remain adhered to.

Advice provided by Holly Fisher (Lead Procurement Officer (Products))

Del Sander – Legal

The Client has been advised that the direct award and the competitive procurement process will need to adhere to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

The direct award will need to be below the PCR threshold for Light Touch Regime Services, taking into account any current and future total spend. The Client has obtained assurance working with procurement colleagues that the total spend is within threshold.

Lee Kimberley – Head of Service/ Nick Lee Director of Education

The Head of Service fully supports this decision, as the most sensible and effective way in delivering the diverse school swimming programme across multiple locations and for a large number of city schools. I am satisfied that appropriate diligence has been undertaken in forming this decision.

Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)

Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People



Scheme of Delegation Reference Number
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Date Decision Taken

23/06/2023
