

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2071

Author:

Mick Evans

Department:

Children and Families

Contact:

Mick Evans

(Job Title: Pupil and School Services Manager, Email: mick.evans@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158765022)

Subject:

Review of the Authority's existing approach to special school provision

Total Value:

£22,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.1, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, to appoint the Headteacher of Oakfield school to review the Authority's existing approach to special school provision.

To make a payment of £22,000 to Oakfield school for the release of the Headteacher to carry out the work.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The need for alternative provision requirement across the City is expanding and there is now a need to take a corporate view of all current provision and map out provision for the future. The following proposal is based on discussions between David Stewart, Headteacher of Oakfield and the Director of Education:

Task 1:

Scoping: a) Understand existing approach/rationale

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p; b) Clarify current spend and impact on provision and services

Task 2: Understand the range of perspectives:

The review would lead to the following products:

- 1) A written report to the Director and working group**
- 2) A clear dataset on overall spend on Special school provision, linked if possible to different Areas of the City/specific schools**

Timescales:

It is expected that fieldwork for the review would be completed by October 2015 with a written report, including statistical and financial data, available by the beginning of November 2015.

It is estimated that a maximum of 40 days would be required for the activities specified (including analysis and write-up, and presentation of the report). Time/cost implications of any changes to the suggested methodology would need to be discussed.

Further time may be needed in the Autumn Term to discuss findings with a broader range of stakeholders and to assist in development of new systems and approached.

This decision includes a request for a dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.1, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, to not seek competitive quotations. Instead it is proposed to appoint the Headteacher of Oakfield Special School who is already employed by the Council. Using the expertise of an individual in this way provides value for money as well as working knowledge of the City and the pressures the special school provision comes under. There is an expectation that there would be little benefit in seeking competitive tenders for this piece of work as it is unlikely that it would result in obtaining any better operational knowledge of the city and the challenges we face.

A payment will be made to the school and not to the Headteacher.



Other Options Considered:	No other options were considered as it was felt that working knowledge of the City was required of the consultant and alternative provision requirements are specialist.
Background Papers:	None
Published Works:	None
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	
Dispensation from Financial Regulations:	Yes
Use of Consultants	Number of Days:40
	Rate per Day:550
	Total value:22000
	Start date:01/06/2015
	End date:16/07/2015
Reason for using a consultant:	Specialist knowledge of both the City and special school provision
Other options considered:	None
Name of consultant:	David Stewart
Reason for selection?	Current Head Teacher at a high performing special school in the City with knowledge of current and future provision
Has the consultant previously completed work for the City Council?	Not known
Specific activities to be undertaken by the consultant are:	Review current and future approach to special school provision within the city
Period of engagement:	40 days
By what process was the consultant selected?	Interview and known area of expert knowledge

Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	None
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: The decision is to review the Authority's existing approach to special school provision and will not involve making any major changes to the current provision
Social Value Considerations:	N/A
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	23/07/2015
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources
Legal Advice:	The proposals set out in the report raise no significant legal issues and, in the circumstances outlined, are supported. Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Legal Services Manager) on 29/06/2015.
Finance Advice:	<p>As outlined earlier in the decision, it is estimated that the review of Special School provision in the City will take approximately 40 days to complete at a total cost of £0.022m. This is based on a rate of £550 per day. If approved the cost of the review will be funded from the School Improvement Fund.</p> <p>By undertaking the review it is envisaged that the final report will outline the best approach for packaging special school provision in the City and will enable the Authority to achieve greater value for money in the future.</p> <p>If as a result of the final report further investment is required then a additional report will we written seeking the necessary approval. Advice provided by Julia Elizabeth Holmes (Finance Analyst) on 01/06/2015.</p>

Procurement Advice:

There are no significant procurement concerns with this decision. The request for dispensation from seeking competitive quotations is supported for the operational reasons set out. It is understood that this is a one-off, low value piece of work and the consultant identified has specialist local knowledge and understanding, due to their current post, which means that competition would be unlikely to yield better value for money.

If any further or ongoing requirements should be identified, a competitive process must be considered in compliance with contract procedure rules, to evidence value for money and ensure fair treatment going forwards.

Advice provided by Dawn Cafferty (Procurement Category Manager) on 18/06/2015.

HR Advice:

There appear to be no direct workforce implications to the procurement of this piece of work. Any impact will be as a result of implementing the findings of the report of the overall AP, and will require appropriate workforce employment practice and consultation to be applied at that time.

Advice provided by Lynn Robinson (HR Business Partner) on 18/06/2015.

Signatures:

Jon Collins (Leader of the Council)
SIGNED and Dated: 16/07/2015
Sam Webster (Portfolio Holder for Schools)
SIGNED and Dated: 07/07/2015
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 07/07/2015
Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 02/07/2015
Chief Financial Officer's Comments: