

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Mr Roger Gough

Cabinet Member – Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00082

For publication

Key decision

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

Endorse the award of contract for SEN Transport Provision in Phase 1 following completion of the procurement process of SEN Transport provision on a single school basis

Reason for decision:

There is an opportunity to improve the quality and experience of learners accessing Special schools whilst reducing the cost to the local authority. This report seeks Cabinet Committee endorsement for the award of contracts for the provision of Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport into three schools (identified as Phase 1) following a competitive tender process and in accordance with chosen evaluation methodology stated in published Invitation to Tender. The decision will encompass both the award for the initial contract term of three years, and if required for any of the two potential extensions that may be invoked.

Members are advised that there will be no changes to transport policy or the entitlement of individual students as a result to endorsing this approach to procurement.

Financial Implications

The proposed contract spend across these three schools will be over £1m. The current cost of SEN Transport provision into these schools is £2million. New contracts will be awarded on a three year basis, with a two year extension period. There is potential to secure financial savings through these new contracts, whilst improving the quality of service to families.

Legal implications

A transparent and accountable procurement process will be used to select the providers. Legal will be engaged alongside the procurement team to support the contract award.

Equalities implications

Please refer to the EQIA initial assessment. There is no change to any policy or eligibility criteria.

Other corporate implications

This procurement has implications on both EYPS in terms of any financial impact it may have, and Growth, Environment & Transport in terms of service delivery.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

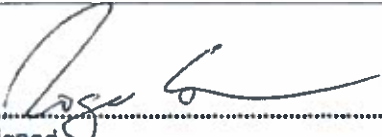
That the Cabinet Committee endorses the award of contracts for the provision of SEN Transport into three Special schools following a competitive tender process, on a single school, single lot strategy.

Cabinet Committee 18th September: The Cabinet Committee endorsed the decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform for the award of contract for SEN Transport Provision in Phase 1 following completion of the procurement process for the provision of SEN Transport provision on a single school basis.

Any alternatives considered:

A robust procurement process is being undertaken to identify providers for a single provider school contract for SEN Transport provision. There is potential to secure financial savings through the new contract and ensure that the needs of vulnerable children continue to be met by the local authority.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None


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signed

5 January 2016
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date