

Appendix 1 – Options Appraisal

The options considered, together with the risks and benefits associated with each option, are:

No	Option	Risks	Benefits
1	Do nothing Allow the current DPS to expire at the end of August 2025 and revert to Individual Placement Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Procurement Act does not permit NMISS placements outside of a procured framework. Therefore this option will be non-compliant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None – the local authority must act within the provisions set out in the Procurement Act 2023
2	Extend the contract by the full three years to end 31 August 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current contract needs improving and this option creates a three year delay in creating the solutions for system and market improvement Threshold to join Lot 1 of DPS is too low, leading to more schools to join the DPS with lower quality thresholds Terms and Conditions need to be reviewed and updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows time to embed new KPIs and use of hub Ample data intelligence from contract management Sufficient time to engage in market engagement leading to procurement activity
3	Extend the contract by two years (ending 31 August 2027) Start process to re-procure from 1 September 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current contract needs improving and this option delays activity to create the solutions for system and market improvement Threshold to join Lot 1 of DPS is too low, leading to more schools to join the DPS with lower quality thresholds Terms and Conditions need to be updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows time to embed new KPIs and use of hub More data intelligence from contract management Sufficient time to engage in market engagement leading to procurement activity
4	Extend by one year (ending 31 August 2026) Start process to re-procure from 1 September 2025 Preferred Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current contract needs improving Threshold to join Lot 1 of DPS is too low, leading to more schools to join the DPS with lower quality thresholds Terms and Conditions need to be updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows time to embed new KPIs and use of hub More data intelligence from contract management Sufficient time to engage in market engagement leading to procurement activity Sufficient time to plan and engage in procurement activity Earlier resolution to current system challenges Sufficient time to understand the new Procurement Act and options to re-procure
5	No extensions. Go to market ASAP to start new framework from September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient time to engage market Insufficient time to go through a thorough and necessary procurement process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earlier resolution to current system challenges