

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 8th JANUARY 2015

THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES (SCHOOLWATCH) - PROVIDING SECURITY PATROLS, AND KEYHOLDING SERVICES TO SCHOOLS AND OTHER COUNCIL OWNED BUILDINGS IN THE BOROUGH

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: CUSTOMER SERVICES

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR W McCLEMENTS

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

To seek approval from Cabinet to retender and award the above contract.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Assistant Director of Customer Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Enterprise be authorised to retender and award the contract for the provision of security services (patrols and key holding) to schools and other Council owned buildings within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin with effect from 1st September 2015.

2.2 That the Assistant Director of Law, Democracy & People Services be authorised to agree and execute all final contractual documentation including affixing of the common seal of the Council i as is appropriate under Article 14.of the Constitution and Part 4 Contract Procedure Rules Section 21.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	All Council Priorities are supported by these proposals.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	The contract is to be awarded in June 2015 and the contract will commence on the 1 st September 2015 to 31 st August 2018 with an	

	optional 2 year extension.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	See Financial Implications in section 5.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	See the Legal comments in Section 6
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The advice of the Council's external property insurers is that the current insurance premium is based on the fact that Schoolwatch operates across a number of Council buildings. The insurer has confirmed that should this situation change, then there would be an increase in the premium charge for cover
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

4.1 Background

The aim of the Security Contract currently known as (Schoolwatch) is to reduce crime and vandalism in and around schools and other Council owned sites within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin. To achieve this aim, the successful company will work to prevent, deter and detect crime.

4.2 When the Council became a Unitary Authority in April 1998 it took on responsibility for all schools within the borough. Unfortunately we experienced three major arson attacks during its first two years of existence as well as numerous break-ins and acts of vandalism.

4.3 As a consequence the Council decided to pilot a security patrol programme during the summer holidays of 1999 and as a result of its success, decided to undertake a tender process for a full 'Schoolwatch programme' with effect from the end of July 2000. The contract was retendered in 2006 and again in 2011. Schoolwatch has now run for fourteen years and has proved to be a great success with 95% of the Borough's schools signing up to the programme, with the vast majority employing Schoolwatch as its main key holder.

4.4 Over this time the vast majority of Council owned premises have been added to the programme, thus ensuring a more co-ordinated approach to site security arrangements. As buildings have entered the programme we have seen a significant drop in the level of criminal activity at these sites. The Council and schools are committed to maintaining a Security contract and supporting to ensure site security

and safety. In addition the new security contract will allow for other ad-hoc security work to be added for any Council buildings as and when required.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The annual cost of the Schoolwatch contract in 2014/15 is approximately £220k. Income of £150k is received via contributions from schools and other Council operational buildings that use the service. There is a net budget of £32k for the Schoolwatch contract in 2014/15 which leaves a gap of £38k against the net cost of the service of £70k. The gap will need to be managed by reviewing the level of contributions from services.
- 5.2 Should the retendered costs be higher than the available budgets a decision will be made to increase the contributions for contributing sites, or where deemed safe to do so consider reducing the specification of the level of security for some services eg slightly reduced hours of cover in order to bring the costs of the service in line with the available resources.
- 5.3 Market engagement and a competitive tender produce will help reduce the risk of any unaffordable bids

MLB 04.12.14

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 6.1 The Council through its planning and financial modelling will seek to ensure the best use of financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the Service. The procurement of the services will be construed against the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the threshold of the contract. Where it may be stipulated in the current contract provisions, appropriate notices will be served and exit arrangements followed.

7. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 7.1 None

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