

PROVISION OF THE YOUTH SERVICE FOR DEVON

Report of the Strategic Director: Place

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation:

That approval be given to the contract award for the Council's Provision of Youth Service in Devon contract (CP1311-16) in accordance with the recommendations set out in the accompanying Part II report.

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 In accordance with the Council's decision to divest the youth service to an employee-led public service mutual or other social enterprise, (minute 401 of 14 October 2015 meeting refers) through a competitive procurement exercise, an invitation to tender for contract "CP1311-16 – Provision of Youth Service in Devon" was advertised on 22 June 2016. Organisations were able to bid for the contract provided that:

- their objective is the pursuit of a public service mission linked to the delivery of the service;
- profits are reinvested and/or are distributed on participatory considerations; and
- ownership of the organisation is based on employee ownership/participatory principles or requires the active participation of employees, service users or stakeholders.

The responses to that invitation to tender have been evaluated and the separate report, in Part II of the agenda, makes a recommendation about contract award.

1.2 The Council has responsibilities to support young people, especially those who are more vulnerable, to engage positively in their communities and to make successful transitions to adulthood. The Council will retain responsibility for the Youth Service for Devon and commission the new organisation to deliver it on the Council's behalf.

1.3 Young people were consulted in 2014 on changes to the Council's youth service and, following the implementation of those changes, in appraising the options for its future. Views were sought from Devon's Youth Parliament, Children in Care Council and participation groups with children in care and care leavers during February and March 2016 about the specification for the Youth Service for Devon which was included in the invitation to tender. The Council held a workshop in February 2016 for representatives from community and voluntary groups on the specification for the Youth Service for Devon. Workshop participants gave their views on how the specification for the service should describe targeted youth work with young people with complex/multiple needs and/or vulnerabilities. Workshop participants also considered open access provision.

1.4 Members of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee were invited to comment on the draft specification for the Youth Service for Devon and the questions which tenderers were required to answer as part of their bid.

2. Provision of Youth Service in Devon

2.1 The specification of the Youth Service for Devon required by the Council (minute 195 of 11 June 2014 meeting refers) is to provide:

- An open access youth service for young people at each of the eight youth and community centres (Tiverton, Barnstaple, Exeter, Totnes, Okehampton, Newton Abbot, Bideford and Exmouth).
- Targeted youth work for young people as part of the Devon Early Help strategy.
- Advice, guidance and support to voluntary and community groups.
- Alternative provision for secondary school pupils who have:
 - Behavioural problems which disrupt their learning
 - Emotional and social needs, medical or mental health conditions; or
 - Extreme vulnerability due to personal and social issues.(This will be delivered at the Red Rock centre at Dawlish and the eight youth and community centres.)
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme programmes having particular regard to enabling and supporting participation by young people who:
 - Are not in education, employment and training;
 - Have special educational needs;
 - Are at risk of exclusion from mainstream education; or
 - Have characteristics that are protected under the Equality Act 2010.
- Youth provision at Cranbrook until the planned permanent youth facility has been constructed or until 2024 whichever is the earlier.

2.2 The six outcomes which the Youth Service for Devon will achieve for young people are:

Outcome 1: Young people are safe from harm, neglect and exploitation.
Outcome 2: Vulnerable Young People have good life chances.
Outcome 3: Disadvantaged Young People have more opportunities and better outcomes.
Outcome 4: Young people are able to establish good relationships and connections.
Outcome 5: Young people influence the decisions that affect them.
Outcome 6: Young people have good opportunities to participate in their community.

2.3 The supplier will be permitted to use the Council's vehicles (minibuses, people carriers and trailers) in order to provide the service.

3. Financial Considerations

3.1 The contract covers the geographical boundary area of Devon County Council and the contract will be awarded to a sole supplier. The total value of the contract is £5.25million over its three year term.

4. Sustainability Considerations

- 4.1 Securing a viable, sustainable service for the young people in Devon is one of the Council's key priorities. With decreasing budgets, divesting the service will allow it to trade as an independent organisation. Any surplus generated will be reinvested into its core objectives whilst delivering the obligations of the Council.

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 The impacts of divesting the youth service for Devon to an employee-led public service mutual or other social enterprise have been assessed. The assessment, which is available at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/published/>, highlights the potential for the divestment to increase social value. The provider of the youth service for Devon will be well placed to develop new, innovative partnerships and thereby increase the social value it delivers. Opportunities for its staff to engage with community and voluntary organisations will increase levels of volunteering across Devon. The sense of community ownership of the youth service for Devon will be increased. All of these elements will lead to a growth in social capital.

- 5.2 Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Members will need to consider those impacts as reflected in the assessment at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/published>.

6. Legal Considerations

- 6.1 The requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 have been complied with in the formation of the contract.

Heather Barnes
Strategic Director: Place

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Performance and Engagement: Councillor Barry Parsons

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Simon Kitchen

Room No. County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter. EX2 4QD

Tel No: (01392) 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Impact Assessment	10 May 2016	https://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/published