

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – EST01 20/21

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Transition Support for Young People into Employment, Education and Training
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Jon Taylor Cabinet Member for Education, Transformation and Skills
3	Report author and contact details: Janet Greaves-Stocker janet.greaves-stocker@plymouth.gov.uk 01752 307325
4	<p>Decision to be taken: Plymouth leads the Peninsula Local Authorities in procuring a service, which supports our most vulnerable young people in the 16-18 year old age group. The cohort includes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children with special educational needs and disabilities, who need extra support to ensure their post 16 education or training placement is able to meet their needs. • children who are looked after by the Local Authority • Young carers • Children who are likely to become NEET <p>To award the contract for the Transition Support for Young People into Education, Employment and Training service direct to CSW Group Ltd for a period of 3 years at a total value of £1,753,041.</p>
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>The Local Authority owned company, which is wholly owned by the Peninsula Local Authorities, has delivered the service for the last 12 years.</p> <p>CSW Group Ltd has returned to its Teckal status during 2020 following intensive partnership working with Commissioners in the Local Authorities, and there is no legal requirement to go through a competitive tender process. All due diligence checks have been made to ensure that the company is fit for purpose and able to deliver the service within the agreed budget envelope.</p> <p>The company has a good track record of delivery of the service and by making the direct award we ensure that this will continue.</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>a) Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Option 1- tender the service on the open market. This option was rejected for the following reasons :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CSW Group Ltd is wholly owned by the Local Authorities and meets all Teckal requirements b) When the service was competitively tendered in 2015 CSW Group Ltd was the sole bidder, to submit a suitable tender. There was one other bidder in the 1st Stage of the tender who did not pass the initial selection process. <p>Option 2 – Cease delivering the service or reduce the level of funding</p> <p>This option was rejected for the following reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Plymouth City Council has a statutory duty to deliver the service and support the most vulnerable young people as they transition from school into College, employment or training. b) In the current Covid 19 situation the employment opportunities are becoming scarce for young people and so the service is essential and needs to remain at its current financial levels. CSW Group Ltd are a key partner in the Skills Launchpad Plymouth which will ensure an informed, supportive and empowered skills journey experience, and will create opportunities for up-skilling and re-training, young people to become work ready so they are best placed to fill local jobs. 			
<p>7</p>	<p>Financial implications:</p> <p>The service is currently delivered by CSW Group Ltd at a cost of £584,347 per annum to Plymouth City Council.</p> <p>The service funding has been match funded to the Smart Skills Project by the ESFA, with an additional £3,530,086.81 coming in to the Devon Local Enterprise Partnership, of which Plymouth is a key partner across 3 years. The Smart Skills Project will support young people and adults living in the city to develop their employment skills to move into paid employment.</p>			
<p>8</p>	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total x in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million x is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>				

9	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	<p>Growing Plymouth:</p> <p>The service will contribute towards the development of employment skills reducing the number of young people from vulnerable groups aged 16 -18 becoming NEET. The service will work in close alignment with the Skills4 Plymouth Launchpad and the Smart Skills projects which are working towards reducing the NEET figure for Plymouth 18-24 year olds</p> <p>Caring Plymouth:</p> <p>The transition support service provides support at a critical time in the lives of young people who are likely to achieve poor life outcomes due to their vulnerabilities. The support enables young people to successfully transfer on to education, employment or training and so avoid becoming NEET.</p>
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	n/a


Urgent decisions

11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			

Consultation

13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	x	
		No		(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Jemima Laing (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)		

13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	09/12/20						
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer				
		No	x					
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Alison Botham					
		Job title	Director Children's Services					
		Date consulted	08.12.2020					
Sign-off								
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS68 20/21					
		Finance (mandatory)	djn.20.21.164					
		Legal (mandatory)	MS/27.11.20					
		Human Resources (if applicable)						
		Corporate property (if applicable)						
		Procurement (if applicable)						
Appendices								
17	Ref.	Title of appendix						
	A	Briefing report for publication						
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment						
	C	Business Case						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No	x					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	<p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</p>							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	<p>I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.</p>							
Signature				Date of decision	06/01/2021			
Print Name	Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member for Education, Transformation and Skills)							