

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

To: Croydon Council website
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STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS MADE BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING AND THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILIES, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ON 30 JUNE 2016

This statement is produced in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The following apply to the decisions listed below:

Reasons for these decisions: are contained in the **attached** Part A report

Other options considered and rejected: are contained in the **attached** Part A report

Details of conflicts of Interest declared by the Cabinet Members: none

Note of dispensation granted by the head of paid service in relation to a declared conflict of interest by that Member: none

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet Members the power to make the executive decisions set out below:

CABINET MEMBER'S DECISION REFERENCE NO. 38/16/CYPL

Decision title: Award of Additional Key Stage 4 Places Framework

Having carefully read and considered the Part A and B reports and the requirements of the Council's public sector equality duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and the Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

RESOLVED to:

- 1.1 Approve the establishment of the Framework and appointment of the providers listed in the Part B report for a maximum term of four (4) years (which includes the option to extend the term for a further one (1) year), to deliver additional Key Stage 4 places ("the Services") for learners of compulsory school age. The Framework will be for an initial term of three (3) years with the option to extend for a further one (1) year to deliver the Services, based on satisfactory performance.

1.2 Note that the names of the successful providers will be released once the appointments to the Framework have been agreed and implemented.

Date: 8 July 2016

REPORT TO:	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care
AGENDA ITEM:	Public Background document to agenda item 15.1 Cabinet 20.06.16
SUBJECT:	Award of Additional Key Stage 4 Places Framework
LEAD OFFICER:	Paul Greenhalgh, Executive Director of People
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Alisa Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning and Louisa Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care and Councillor Simon Hall Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
WARDS:	All

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT

The framework supports Croydon Council's Corporate Plan 2013-15. It is linked to, but limited to, outcome 'A3: *A place that meets physical and social infrastructure needs*' as set out in objective A3.2 of the plan, which states we will:

'ensure sufficient school places to meet rapidly growing demand by continuing the timely delivery of the education programme including additional short-term provisions, primary, secondary, academies and special educational needs (SEN) provisions.'

This framework will ensure the Council can access additional short term and alternative provision, enabling young people to re-enter mainstream education as swiftly as possible, as detailed in the Independence Strategy.

The framework also contributes to meeting meeting the Council's equality objectives :

'To achieve better learning outcomes for children and young people by narrowing the attainment gap for those who are vulnerable (we will continue to improve provision for children and young people with complex needs)'

'To improve the economic outcomes of young people and adults by increasing opportunities to be in education, employment or training.'

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON & WHY ARE WE DOING THIS:

'Croydon is in desperate need of new schools and ... [we] will put in place plans to deliver the additional school places required.'

- As the demand mainstream school places grows so does the demand for alternative provision. This framework will supplement our existing pupil referral unit provision and ensure sufficient capacity to meet statutory requirements.

'We will work with schools, businesses and the voluntary sector to ensure young people and those learning new skills can access high quality education and learn a range of skills which will equip them for employment, whatever the sector.'

- The framework enables the Council to access a wider range of academic and vocational education providers and allows us to diversify the curriculum offer available to young people.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding will be secured from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and will be cost neutral to the Council. The amount approved is agreed annually by Schools' Forum.

The anticipated total value of the framework agreement ("the Framework") for a term of four (4) years (including the one (1) year extension) is £2.52m. This is based on an annual cost of £630k, (NB. The strategy report stated a lower figure, based on 2015/16 spend) which is what was approved by Schools' Forum for 2016/17. The framework will have an annual review and appropriate break clauses to allow for changes to the national legislative and funding picture.

The Framework enables the Council to commission additional places for new arrivals to Croydon in Key Stage 4. These learners are primarily from overseas and in Year 11. Many of them have limited English and in some cases limited previous education.

KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: 38/16/CYPL

The decision may be implemented from 1300 hours on the expiry of 5 working days after it is made, unless the decision is referred to the Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee by the requisite number of Councillors.

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the nominated Cabinet Member the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care, in consultation with the Leader of the Council are recommended to approve the establishment of the Framework and appointment of the providers listed in the Part B report for a maximum term of four (4) years (which includes the option to extend the term for a further one (1) year), to deliver additional Key Stage 4 places ("the Services") for learners of compulsory school age. The Framework will be for an initial term of three (3) years with the option to extend for a further one (1) year to deliver the Services, based on satisfactory performance.

1.2 The Cabinet Members are asked to note that the names of the successful providers will be released once the appointments to the Framework have been agreed and implemented..

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Local Authority is under a duty to ensure suitable education is available to all learners of statutory school age who reside in the borough. The proposal seeks to support the Local Authority's fulfilment of this function by establishing a Framework to ensure that a wide range of good quality alternative educational provision is available for a variety of learners with different learning needs that require differentiated support to access and remain in education.
- 2.2 The nature of provision required is determined by the needs of the individual learner. Therefore there are external variables which may result in the actual cost of provision falling above or below the £630k stated in the financial impact summary.
- 2.3 Representations will be made to Schools' Forum for additional funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant in circumstances where actual costs exceed estimated cost. Call offs will be reviewed annually and therefore able to accommodate changes in the schools' funding regime.
- 2.4 It is likely that demand for places in Key Stage 4 will continue to grow and exceed available mainstream capacity. 165 places were commissioned in 2014/15 academic year, which has grown from the 90 places that were needed to be commissioned in the 2010/2011 academic year.
- 2.5 This drive towards the procurement of good quality provision at competitive rates will strengthen the Council's position to meet the educational needs of some of its most vulnerable learners in an appropriate and timely manner.
- 2.6 All providers appointed to the list and awarded contracts will be required to;
- Assess the educational needs of each individual learner with learner involvement
 - Set SMART, (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timed), progression targets for and with each individual learner, periodically reviewing and reassessing the same.
 - Deliver a suitable curriculum that accommodates growth in terms of progression and breadth
 - Support the safety and wellbeing of learners
 - Support positive, appropriate progression i.e. integration or reintegration into school, post 16 positive destination
- 2.7 Monitoring and evaluation of contract compliance will be aligned to agreed payment schedules.

CCB Approval Date	CCB ref. number
09/06/2016	CCB1146/15-16

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 Local authorities have a duty to provide *“suitable education at school, or otherwise than at school, for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them”*.
- 3.2 This duty is enshrined in section 19 of the Education Act 1996:
- 3.3 Suitable education is defined as “efficient education suitable to the age, ability, aptitude and to any special educational needs”, the child (or young person) may have.
- 3.4 Local authorities must decide, in consultation with parents, what is suitable education out of school (out of school provision) for a particular child, whilst having regard to the efficient use of resources and Department for Education guidance.
- 3.5 It is not an option for local authorities to refuse to make arrangements to provide suitable education for pupils out of school who are resident within the local authority area.
- 3.6 In Croydon, demand across all year groups has been steady with noteworthy pressure at Key Stage 4 (KS4). KS4 learners are in national curriculum years 10 and 11 and are aged between 14 and 16 years old. National Curriculum Years 10 and 11 are the school years during which learners traditionally begin and complete the academic options they have chosen in Year 9.
- 3.7 It is estimated that Croydon is responsible for providing services to a fifth of the country’s entire unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Supporting the availability of provision accessible to learners who do not speak English as a first language is essential in meeting the needs of this vulnerable group.
- 3.8 Every effort is made to support learners into mainstream schools in the first instance. The practical challenge of admitting pupils in Year 11 to mainstream schools limits the LA’s ability to secure places.
- 3.9 The majority of learners accessing provision under this framework will be in national curriculum school years 10 and 11 and will be between 14 and 16 years old. The majority of these learners do not speak English as a first language and require ESOL, (English for Speakers of Other Languages), provision. The learners accessing provision are likely to be learners newly arrived from abroad and learners new to Croydon who can not be supported onto a fulltime school timetable due to capacity.
- 3.10 It was agreed by CCB on 13th December 2016 reference CCB1093/15-16 that, via a tendering process, providers would be invited to evidence how they satisfy prescribed criteria in order to be placed on an approved providers list.

- 3.11 Implementation of this project will significantly reduce the need to enter into rounds of resource intensive ad-hoc quality assurance and the disparity in fees between providers for comparable provision.
- 3.12 The learners access the provision delivered under this framework can be described as harder to place due to prevalent factors in their educational history such as exclusion or concerns around the managing the risk associated with their behaviour and/or associations. It is difficult to project the number of learners that will require the provision delivered under the framework and therefore call off will more likely be sought on a more reactive basis.
- 3.13 The service will ensure financial probity through the Contracts and Commissioning Board and or a decision by the relevant officer under the Council's scheme of authorisation subject to contract value, and will make certain that measures are in place that ensure:
- a) adherence with the Council financial regulations;
 - b) procurement of the services is undertaken in a fair, competitive and transparent way; and
 - c) follows the agreed call-off mechanism specified below.

4 TENDERING

- 4.1 The tendering process was developed to enable the selection of the best suppliers available in the market, with the ability to offer a local service provision which meets the diverse needs of the Councils learners of compulsory school age. The evaluation criteria for selection were agreed at ratio of 60:40 in relation to price and quality.
- 4.2 The Invitation to Tender (ITT) document was designed to allow tenderers to demonstrate their capability to deliver the expected service to the design. Providers were required to have achieved a grade of satisfactory or above following their last quality assurance inspection by Ofsted and/or under the Council's own quality assurance framework. Providers new to the borough, or who intend to secure sites after a call-off contract has been negotiated, will be subject to an inspection under our quality assurance framework prior to any call-off contract award.
- 4.3 The project and evaluation team were made up of multi-disciplinary, inter-department colleagues including:
- Head of Learning Access
 - Head Teacher, Virtual School Looked After Children
 - Commissioning & Quality Assurance Officer (Alternative Education Provision)
- 4.4 This approach enabled inter -departmental working by engaging teams that refer young people to alternative provision to be actively involved in assessing quality and the development of service design, reinforcing the one team approach to service development. It also ensured that the needs of more vulnerable learners were adequately represented.

- 4.5 The Service Specification was also designed to require the delivery of educational provision and access to support services that meet the individual needs and required outcomes of young people, in preparation for progression to positive destinations post 16. This enables the Council to fulfil its statutory function as an admissions authority, to increase the prospect of our learners achieving positive outcomes and to meet corporate targets on reducing the number of children without at school place and who are at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training, (NEET).
- 4.6 The delivery of this framework is compliant with the corporate framework for project and programme management including, regular review of identified risks and progress tracking.

5 AWARD PROCEDURE

- 5.1 The council will commission the Services through the framework.
- 5.2 Providers will be selected in one of the following ways:

For a 'block call off' where the Council will be looking to appoint a provider to provide services in respect of a number of service users officers will follow the framework terms and conditions. The commissioning officer will determine the educational needs of the learners. A provider will then be selected from those providers considered able to meet those educational needs with the highest scoring provider, using the 60:40 cost/quality ratio, awarded the contract.

For a 'spot call off' where the Council needs to place an individual learner the following will occur:

- a) The commissioning officer will determine the educational needs of the learner(s)
- b) If only one provider is identified as suitable, a contract will be awarded.
- c) Where more than one provider is considered suitable the criteria of 60:40 cost/quality will be applied and then the highest scoring provider will be selected to award the contract.
- d) If more than one provider is considered suitable after the above criteria are applied, then (wherever possible) the preference of the parent/carer and child will be sought or the decision will be based on journey time.
- e) If none of the providers on the framework are identified as suitable the allocated officer, in consultation with strategic lead, will invite providers outside of the framework, (who have achieved a rating of satisfactory or above following a quality assurance inspections by the Learning Access team and/or Ofsted), to evidence their capacity to meet identified need in the required time and to provide a quote for their service. To procure and award any such contracts the service will follow the council procurement

governance and thresholds as appropriate.

- 5.3 Awards of up to £100k will be authorised by the Director responsible for this area of work. Awards in excess of £100k will be approved by Contract & Commissioning Board.
- 5.4 No individual provider will be awarded contracts in excess of £100k. Once a provider has reached this cap further contracts will be awarded to the next suitable provider applying the 60:40 cost/quality criteria.

6 CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Tenderers have been informed of the service specification, staffing levels and key performance indicators. These were notified to all tenderers through the Terms and Conditions (“T&C”). A further review of Key Performance Indicators (“KPI”) will be carried out and this will be agreed with providers from the start of the Contract and monitored through identified contract management process.
- 6.2 Through Contract Management administration, providers’ performance will be monitored through submissions of termly performance monitoring reports. Providers will be required to submit management information based on performance indicators, in an agreed format on a termly basis which is already included as a requirement in the Condition of Contract. The council contract management methodology will be applied to support contract monitoring process.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Tenderers have been informed of the service specification, staffing levels and key performance indicators. These were notified to all tenderers through the Terms and Conditions (T&C). A further review of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) will be carried out and this will be agreed with providers from the start of the Contract and monitored through identified contract management process.
- 6.2 The Learning Access team will work with providers to ensure the success of the contract and the delivery of outcomes.

7 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 To meet sustained demand the gross cost of this service over three years is estimated to be £1.89 million. This estimate has been calculated using 2015/2016 budget of £630k for this cohort. Funding is secured from the School Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and under the current DSG funding regime will be cost neutral to the Council. The amount available for this budget has reduced from £800k in 2014/15.
- 7.2 The nature of provision required is determined by the needs of the individual learner. Therefore there are external variables which may result in the actual cost of provision falling above or below the estimate above.

- 7.3 Representations will be made for additional funding from the dedicated schools grant in circumstances where actual costs exceed estimates, if allowed under the new DSG National Funding Formula regulations
- 7.4 The Department of Education recently consulted on implementing a National Funding Formula for schools. The outcome of that consultation is not yet known and may affect available funding in the future as commissioning alternative provision is likely to be delegated fully to schools.
- 7.5 Expenditure will be monitored against budget and reviewed in line with Croydon Councils financial strategy.
- 7.6 Contracts will have penalty and exit clauses including amending the funding method if DSG funding is withdrawn to ensure compliance from providers on the process of service delivery, billing and invoicing.

1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations

	Current year	Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast		
	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000
DSG Budget available	630	630	630	630
Expenditure	630	630	630	630
Income				
Effect of decision from report	630	630	630	630
Expenditure	630	630	630	630
Income				
Remaining budget	0	0	0	0

The budgets detailed in the table above assume the National Funding Formula, which comes into effect in 2017/18, has no impact on the DSG funding available for this contract.

2 The effect of the decision

Approving the recommendation in this report will award contracts to the organisations outlined

3 Risks

The council has a statutory responsibility to make sure all learners within their area have access to a school places or alternative education arrangements. Not having a framework risks the council not being able to comply with this statutory requirement or only being able to do so at greater cost.

4 Options

The alternative option to provision of this service will be to deliver through off-framework commissioning. This will significantly reduce our ability to accommodate learners' needs in a timely fashion, increasing the risk to the learner of negative outcomes and decreasing our ability to secure best value for money.

5 Future savings/efficiencies

Nationally, possible future changes by the Department of Education to the legislative and financial paradigm for schools and local authorities may lead to future savings to DSG as funding is aligned with responsibilities.

The Home Office has announced a possible national dispersal scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. If implemented this may reduce the demand for placements as young people are no longer placed in Croydon or the responsibility of Croydon Council.

Approved by: Lisa Taylor on behalf of Head of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer

6. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 The Borough Solicitor comments that the procurement process as detailed in this report is in accordance with the Council's Tenders and Contracts Regulations and seeks to support the Council's duty to achieve Best Value pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999.

Approved for and behalf of Gabriel Macgregor Acting Council Solicitor & Acting Monitoring Officer

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 7.1 This report concerns the provision of services that will be provided by third party organisations. As such, the Council is not the employer of the staff working within the framework and there are no implications for Croydon employees. However, in the event that there are service provision changes, even if permitted within the contract, it is possible that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Act 2006 may be invoked. HR advice should therefore be sought at a senior level if there are any changes to the service provisions.

Approved by: Debbie Calliste, HR Business Partner, on behalf of the Director of Human Resources

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 The equalities impact assessment is being updated currently and will be available on 2nd June 2016.

9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 9.1 It was consider whether we should either not have a framework and either not commission additional places or commission the Services without a framework. This was rejected as because not commissioning additional places would mean mainstream school have to admit large numbers of Year 11s from overseas and it is felt schools are not yet in a position to repond to the needs of this cohort. Commissioning off framework would mean there was greater risk at of the provision being commissioned being of lesser quality at a greater cost.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972