
Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

22 January 2020

Procurement for the Provision of Agency Workers Recruitment Services – pre-decision scrutiny

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

The current contract for the provision of agency workers is due to expire at the end of September 2020 and therefore the re-procurement of a new contract is required. The attached report sets out the detail around the requirements of the contract.

The contract will provide temporary agency workers to all departments of the Council, except for schools. Agency workers will be provided to cover short term vacancies and specialist services. It is intended that the new contract model will be a vendor neutral managed service. The proposal is for a new contract for an initial period of three years with the option to extend for up to a further year, with a total estimated maximum value of £72million.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee should consider the detail included within the attached report and appendices presented by the Director of Law and Assurance and the Director of Finance and Support Services.

Key areas for scrutiny include:-

- Ensuring that the procurement model is able to meet the needs of the County Council in the timely provision of agency workers
- That the procurement will provide an efficient and value for money contract
- That the procurement model provides for a flexible contract able to meet any changing demands of the County Council in the future
- That contract risks are being managed and where necessary plans are in place to mitigate the risks
- That equality duty requirements and social value benefits are included within the procurement specification

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Details

The contract for the provision of agency workers is due to be renewed in September 2020. The Council currently spends approximately £15million per annum on agency workers (on and off contract). Carrying out an open competitive procurement

exercise will provide value for money for the Council whilst ensuring quality services on the best terms available in the market.

The decision to commence a procurement exercise is expected to be taken by Cabinet on 28 January 2020.

The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached report, including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

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Appendices

- Appendix A – Key Decision Report - Procurement for the Provision of Agency Workers Recruitment Services

Background papers

None