

Agenda Item 7

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 18 SEPTEMBER 2015

Statement from: Councillor M J Hill OBE– Leader and Executive Councillor for Governance, Communication and Commissioning

THE COMMERCIAL TEAM

Library Service

The Team is working jointly with Public Health in the procurement of library services providing the necessary project management, procurement and commercial support adopting the new model of service delivery approved by the Executive. It is hoped that the procurement will deliver further savings; improved services and increased community resilience. Bidders have been encouraged to propose new ways of working and three solutions have now been submitted. A dialogue phase is currently in progress to refine the solutions and identify where savings and service improvements can be made. The Executive will be asked to consider awarding a contract to the successful bidder in early December.

Contract Register

A review of the Corporate Contracts Register and supporting processes is being carried out to improve the transparency of all Council contracts ensure the information held is accurate and recorded correctly. This will help the Commercial Team and commissioners proactively monitor and plan for forthcoming procurements and will support more cost effective decision making.

This has involved engagement with all districts as well as the county to establish the continuing need for goods and services going forward.

Serco

The Team continue to hold Serco to account for its performance and ensure that continuing issues are dealt with at the highest levels of both organisations.

Contract Regulations and Procurement Procedure Rules

The Team has reviewed and consulted on the Council's contract regulations in the light of continuing austerity and to ensure that they are in line with the new Public Contracts Regulations. Work will now be carried out to update the Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules to ensure high quality guidance is available to all commissioners. Training requirements will be identified and met.

Adult Care Re-provision

The Team continue to work hard on delivering a highly ambitious programme of work with a significant amount of the overall Adult Care programme being re-procured within 2015 alone. Achievements include:

ICES

The contract for Integrated Community Equipment Service has been re-procured and awarded to NRS Ltd. The new contract continues the successful partnership with Health and will deliver up to £1m savings per year.

Community Support Homecare

Twelve new contracts for the Councils home care services have now been awarded. The procurement process started in February with extensive market engagement and support followed by an intensive four month procurement exercise resulting in the new model of home care services becoming a commercial reality. Five of the twelve providers are newly established collaborative solutions comprised of local business a key aspiration of the market engagement element. The new 'Prime Providers' are now in a three month transition period mobilising to deliver services in their designated zone by October 2015.

Community Supported Living

Running alongside the re-procurement of home care services the People Services team also established a new Open Select List for Community Supported Living services in June. The new contracts will allow for existing care arrangements to continue without disruption, introduce new capability and capacity to the market as well as improving value for money.

Advocacy

The new contract for Advocacy services awarded to VoiceAbility in April 2015 commenced on 1st July run for an initial three year period.

Home Based Re-ablement Service

A new procurement exercise is underway and almost complete. This is a key service that represents a vital bridge between Social Care and Health and with the award of the home care contracts happening at the same time will afford the Council the opportunity to work towards establishing a more efficient and integrated end to end service.

Adult Care Contract Management

Following the improved position of adult care contract management in receiving 'Substantial Assurance' in the recent internal audit the Contracts team has successfully implemented a new risk management toolkit which has taken a fundamental review of the existing risk position of all key Adult Care contracts. This has allowed the Contracts team to identify and address important areas of risk within its portfolio of contracts.

The Council's New Performance Management Framework

The Team has developed the Council's new style Business Plan 2015/2016 which is using Infographics techniques designed to aid effective review and scrutiny of performance and inform decision making. The infographics are welcomed as they:

- show trends in performance,
- easily identify performance, and

- provide both the big picture and the detail across the commissioning strategies, targets and performance.

Devolution

The Council has been involved in an intense period of work with partners on the production on an Expression of Interest for a devolution package of powers and funding for Greater Lincolnshire. The rationale for the bid is that exercising these responsibilities locally will boost the contribution our area makes to the national drive for growth and will enable us to design better and more cost-effective local services. The proposals centre on developing a skilled workforce, accelerating growth in our economy, improving the health of our people and enhancing their safety.

The submission was made on 4 September, the Treasury's deadline for views on the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review. The submission seeks inclusion in the considerations of that Review and asks the Government for a negotiation over the powers and funding sought. (The details are contained in a paper elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.)

Projects

Other priority projects supported are:

Procurement projects within Adult Care including Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES) where a new section 75 agreement with health partners has been renewed alongside a brand new contract for ICES; redesign of the Community Support Framework where the new contract establishes 'prime providers' across Lincolnshire delivering homecare services in specific geographical zones.

Channel Shift, where the Council is seeking to shift to less costly ways of doing business with a move to more self-service.

Children Services Transport Review - home to school transport for Lincolnshire special schools, considering the potential of 'one contractor/one area or school' arrangements for any and all Lincolnshire special schools and other non-mainstream settings.

Children Services Readiness for School and Children's Health Services Commissioning Review examining what type of services families need to help their children have the best start in early life, be ready for school and continue to lead happy and healthy lives in preparation for adulthood and commissioning to meet those needs.

The team co-ordinated and organised two engagement and marketing events for the Magna Carta, attended by national and local organisations, sponsors and stakeholders. The success of these events was celebrated by many individuals returning for the royal opening in June.

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