

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet **DATE:** 17 July 2017

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Neil Wilcox. Assistant Director: Finance & Audit (Section 151)  
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**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Councillor Munawar, Cabinet Member for Finance & Strategy

### **PART I** **NON-KEY DECISION**

#### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT 2017/18 – PROCUREMENT DECISIONS**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

This report seeks the approval of the Cabinet for recent and proposed commissioning activity. The first financial monitoring report will be considered by the Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

##### **2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that approval be given to the following contracts as detailed in paragraphs 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 of the report:

- Highway Resurfacing Contract
- Hope House & Doddsfield Road
- Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT)

##### **3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

This report indirectly supports all of the strategic priorities and cross cutting themes. The maintenance of excellent governance within the Council helps to ensure that it is efficient, effective and economic in everything it does. It helps to achieve the corporate objectives by detailing how the Council is delivering services to its residents within the financial parameters of the approved budget.

##### **4 Other Implications**

###### **(a) Financial**

The financial implications are contained within this report.

###### **(b) Risk Management**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Legal	N/A	N/A
Property	N/A	N/A
Human Rights	N/A	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A	N/A
Employment Issues	N/A	N/A

Equalities Issues	N/A	N/A
Community Support	N/A	N/A
Communications	N/A	N/A
Community Safety	N/A	N/A
Financial	N/A	N/A
Timetable for delivery	N/A	N/A
Project Capacity	N/A	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

None

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA

**5 Supporting Information**

**Procurement Issues**

**5.1 Highway Resurfacing Contract**

The initial tendered contract was awarded to Aggregate Industries from 2014- 2016 with an option to extend for one year. This option was taken and the contract was extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

With the change from Teckal to DSO there are likely to be delays in procuring a replacement Highway Resurfacing contract resulting in large underspends on capital. In addition, this would lead to a poorer performing highway network with potentially more claims.

The previous contract was awarded to Aggregate Industries based on the merits of technical and financial criteria (where financial criteria is weighted more heavily). The current rates with Aggregate Industries are still competitive and Aggregate Industries have agreed to honour the original contract rates supplied in. Therefore the council will still be receiving value for money on an extension to 2014-16 contract and will now have sufficient time to procure a replacement contract.

Therefore members are being asked to approve a further year extension of the Highway Resurfacing Contract while officer procure a new 3 year contract.

**5.2 Hope House & Doddsfield Road**

The Mental Health step down service at Hope House/Doddsfield Road was established as a two year pilot ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. We are about to review the success of the service to determine it's future.

The annual value of the contract is £190,000 and a new contract of more than 12 months will take us over the threshold for reporting to cabinet.

Members are therefore being asked to agree to approve the re-procurement of the mental health service at Hope House / Doddsfield Road.

### 5.3 **Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT)**

Speech and language therapy (SALT) provides treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing. Speech and language therapists (SLTs) are allied health professionals. They work with parents, carers and other professionals, such as teachers, nurses, occupational therapists and doctors.

The Council has a statutory obligation to provide a Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) Service to local mainstream schools. The SALT Service works individually with those children who have a statement of special educational needs and identified SALT needs. It is a statutory duty for the local authority to ensure SALT support is available as defined in the young person's support plan. The SALT service for Slough children and young people is currently being commissioned by an external provider on behalf of the Council with a contract value of **£252k** per annum.

The current contract expired at the end of March 2017 and was extended to the end of September 2017 to enable a procurement exercise to commence. The current provider has indicated they do not wish to continue providing the service going forward.

Please see Appendix A for the full report

Members are asked to:

- a) Agree that an interim SALT service be identified and procured urgently to commence on 1st September 2017 to ensure no interruption to this statutory service. The interim service will be for 12 months.
- b) Note that the provider market for SALT is very limited, and that to spot purchase on an individual basis would be resource inefficient and prohibitively expensive.

Pending procurement of an interim service, Officers undertake a procurement exercise to seek a new long-term contract for this service, to include a service review to ensure the needs of Children who have a statement of special educational needs will continue to be met by a new long-term and sustainable contract, which is compliant with the Public Contract Regulations (2015), Light Touch Regime (LTR).

Members will wish to be advised that there will be TUPE implications involving 6 to 8 members of staff who provide the current service, based on the current contract value. Officers will therefore be consulting with colleagues in Human Resources (Arbour Vale School) and Royal Berkshire Pension Fund to ensure that protocols are observed and any risks are brought to the attention of Members with a plan for mitigation.

The service is currently delivered from an Annexe on the Arbour Vale school site and it is likely that this provision (or a suitable equivalent) will be required by the new provider going forward.

- c) Delegation of the decision to procure this service to the Director of Children's Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families.

**6. Comments of other committees**

This report has not been considered by any other committees.

**7. Conclusion**

The Cabinet is requested to approve the procurement decisions as detailed in the report.

**8. Appendices Attached**

'A' - Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT) Procurement report

**Procurement of Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT) – Appendix to Finance Monitoring Paper (Cabinet 17 July 2017)**

**1. Background**

Speech and language therapy (SALT) provides treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing. Speech and language therapists (SLTs) are allied health professionals. They work with parents, carers and other professionals, such as teachers, nurses, occupational therapists and doctors.

**2. Purpose of the report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the contract arrangements of the SALT Service. The Council has a statutory obligation to provide a Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) Service to local mainstream schools. The SALT Service works individually with those children who have a statement of special educational needs and identified SALT needs. It is a statutory duty for the local authority to ensure SALT support is available as defined in the young person's support plan.

The SALT service for Slough children and young people is currently being commissioned by an external provider on behalf of the Council with a contract value of £252k per annum.

The current contract expired at the end of March 2017 and was extended to the end of September 2017 to enable a procurement exercise to commence. The current provider has indicated they do not wish to continue providing the service going forward.

**3. Recommendations**

- d) Agree that an interim SALT service be identified and procured urgently to commence on 1st September 2017 to ensure no interruption to this statutory service. The interim service will be for 12 months.
- e) Note that the provider market for SALT is very limited, and that to spot purchase on an individual basis would be resource inefficient and prohibitively expensive.

Pending procurement of an interim service, Officers undertake a procurement exercise to seek a new long-term contract for this service, to include a service review to ensure the needs of Children who have a statement of special educational needs will continue to be met by a new long-term and sustainable contract, which is compliant with the Public Contract Regulations (2015), Light Touch Regime (LTR). Members will wish to be advised that there will be TUPE implications involving 6 to 8 members of staff who provide the current service, based on the current contract value. Officers will therefore be consulting with colleagues in Human Resources (Arbour Vale School) and Royal Berkshire Pension Fund to ensure that protocols are observed and any risks are brought to the attention of Members with a plan for mitigation.

The service is currently delivered from an Annexe on the Arbour Vale school site and it is likely that this provision (or a suitable equivalent) will be required by the new provider going forward.

- f) Delegation of the decision to procure this service to the Director of Children's Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families.

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