

**Agenda Item No. 6 (i)**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**5 October 2017**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services**

**Education and Early Years System – (Young People)**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- a) To seek Cabinet approval to extend the current contract to support Education and Early Years services with Servelec HSC Limited (**Servelec**) for the system (**Synergy**) for up to a further two years, from 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2020; and
- b) To seek Cabinet approval to undertake a procurement exercise for the system to support Education and Early Years services

**2. Information and Analysis**

The Synergy system supports the operational delivery of a number of functions across Education and Early years Services. Synergy hosts Children's Services' Central Pupil Database, and includes modules which support statutory and traded services, including:

- Early years free child care;
- School Admissions;
- Transport;
- Free School Meals;
- Governor Support;
- Children Missing Education;
- Home Education;
- Education Psychology;
- Education Welfare;
- Family Information Services; and
- Children and Young People with Special Education Needs & Disability.

During 2017, Children's Services implemented an Early Years Financial solution within Synergy to meet new legislation which expanded the offer of free child care for working families to 30 hours

a week. This becomes operational in September 2017, and will need a period of time to embed as Councils and child care providers across England adjust to the new ways of working.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, Cabinet approved the extension of the existing contract, to 31 March 2018, to bring it in line with the contract expiry dates of other systems within the Department. This was done in order to explore opportunities through soft-market testing to rationalise and integrate systems across Children's Services.

The results of the soft-market testing carried out in February 2016 will inform the scope and requirements of the proposed procurement exercise, and will seek to further integrate the Synergy system with the Department's Social Care and Early intervention case management system (MOSAIC).

It is anticipated that the procurement exercise will take at least 12 months to complete and depending upon the outcome, there may be a requirement to extend the Synergy contract with Servelec for up to two years, from 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2020.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

The procurement of a new system would be seeking to pay a similar or reduced annual maintenance cost, and any one-off costs to support the rationalisation and integration costs would be funded from the earmarked funds approved by Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015.

Proposals to draw from this fund will be made through business cases and subject to the appropriate approval process in accordance with Financial Regulations.

The term of the contract that will be sought through the procurement process would be for 4 years, with the option to extend for a further 3 years on an annual basis.

The annual maintenance costs for the first year extension from 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 is £132,044, plus a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase to be confirmed. The cost of the subsequent year, from 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, would be a further £134,685, plus a CPI increase. This will be funded from the Children's Services Information & ICT core budget (of cost centre CRMD001).

#### **4. Legal Considerations**

Where the value of the goods or services to be provided is above the OJEU threshold of £164,176, it is for Cabinet to decide whether to:

- (i) award the contract extension; and
- (ii) undertake a procurement exercise.

#### **5. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, human rights, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

#### **6. Background Papers**

None.

#### **7. Key Decision**

No

#### **8. Call in**

No

#### **10. Strategic Director's Recommendation**

That the Cabinet Member for Young People approves the request to:

- a) Extend the Synergy contract with Servelec, for a minimum one additional year, from 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, with the option to extend for a further year, from 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, if required; and
- b) Commence a procurement exercise to purchase an Education and Early Years system.

**Jane Parfrement**  
**Strategic Director for Children's Services**