

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2013**

### **Active Literacy Programme – Tender Approval**

#### **1 Recommendations**

**The committee is recommended to:**

- 1.1 Approve the contract to Glowworm to purchase £211,000 of specialist reading books, selected novels and book banding CDs.**
- 1.2 Approve the contract to North Lanarkshire Council to purchase £110,000 of specialised teacher manuals, phonic packs, teaching boards and phonic sets.**

#### **2 Background / Discussion**

- 2.1 As improving the quality of learning and teaching is a key priority within the Education, Learning and Leisure Service Plan, it was agreed that the implementation of an active literacy programme, together with staff training and professional development would improve outcomes for learners, initially within the primary sector.
- 2.2 The aims of the programme are to:
  - Apply effective approaches to the teaching of language and literacy
  - Improve pupil involvement and active engagement in the learning process
  - Use research data to evidence improvement in literacy levels and increased confidence of staff in using active approaches to learning
  - Invest in sustained early intervention strategies focused on language and literacy development.
- 2.3 In session 2012-13, 48 schools in identified clusters were targeted to participate in the active literacy programme to address issues around attainment in literacy. Practitioners were provided with two days of training and Head Teachers attended awareness raising sessions. All schools were provided with an introductory pack of resources and the guidance manuals from North Lanarkshire. Further support was made available through twilight sessions for teaching staff.
- 2.4 In session 2013-14, a further cohort of practitioners across 56 schools and support services will be involved in staff development to support the implementation of active literacy approaches, initially in the P1-3 stage of primary school. Meanwhile, the schools in the initial phase will implement active literacy throughout the school.
- 2.5 Discussions have taken place with the Central Procurement Unit to purchase specialist reading books, selected novels and book banding

CDs to fulfil the new active literacy approaches currently being developed. An exercise involving all those suppliers on the Scotland Excel, national pre-tendered contract framework, was undertaken on 22 April 2013. It was agreed with the Head of Procurement and Head of Finance to use the supplier called Glowworm as they scored highest in the subsequent evaluation of the aforementioned exercise. The total value of the goods is estimated at £211,000.

- 2.6 It is also planned to purchase specialised teacher manuals, phonic packs, teaching boards and phonic sets for all P1-3 classes at a cost of £110,000 from North Lanarkshire Council on the basis that no other company or Council can supply these goods. North Lanarkshire Council has invested heavily in the development of this equipment and supply the majority of councils in Scotland. This approach to purchase has been discussed and agreed with the Head of Procurement.
- 2.7 The Council's financial regulations indicate that the use of framework agreements are compliant with financial regulations. However, Policy & Resources Committee need to approve the request where the value of the goods or services is greater than £60,000.
- 2.8 Subject to the agreement of Policy & Resources Committee, the Head of Finance is satisfied that the purchase of these goods from this supplier complies with the Council's financial regulations.
- 2.9 The Monitoring Officer within Corporate Services has been consulted during the preparation of this report.

### 3 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required because the recommended actions do not have a differential impact on people with protected characteristics.
- 3.2 The purchase of the materials indicated in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6 will be funded from an End Year Flexibility request of £420,000 which was agreed at Policy & Resources Committee on 18 April 2013. The £420,000 will be spent as follows:

	<b>£'000</b>
Specialist reading books, selected novels and book banding CDs	211
Benchmarking kits to evaluate learners' progress	27
Specialised teacher manuals, phonic packs, teaching boards and phonic sets	110
Magnetic white boards	9
Implementation	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>

**Maria Walker**  
Director of Education, Learning & Leisure