

**CABINET – 10 May 2010**

**REQUEST FOR A CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE PROVISION  
OF A POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AND  
MANAGEMENT**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES**

**PART A**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to request an extension of a contract with Warwick Business School (WBS) for the provision of a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Leadership and Management pending re-commencement of a formal tender process. The diploma is intended to deliver leadership skills to selected employees of Leicestershire Leadership in Partnership (LLIP)<sup>1</sup>.

**Recommendation**

2. The Cabinet is recommended to grant an extension to a contract awarded to Warwick Business School for the period of eighteen months from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 until 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011 i.e. for the duration of one eighteen months programme. The contract is for provision of a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Leadership and Management.

**Reason for Recommendation**

3. Rule 30a of the Contract Procedure Rules (Part 4G of the Constitution) requires that where a contract is originally approved by the Executive and where the duration of the planned extension is more than three months, then authority must be gained from the Executive.
4. In this instance a compliant tendering procedure was commenced but subsequently stopped (in consultation with the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) due to unforeseen issues relating to the Invitation to Tender document. It is considered important to ensure that training continues in key leadership skills for the cohort who will join the course on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> LLIP members are Leicestershire County Council, the District & Borough Council's, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire Constabulary, Leicester City NHS, Leicestershire & Rutland County NHS, Leicestershire Probation Service, Connexions, Leicestershire Fire & Rescue and a representative of the Voluntary & Community Sector.

### **Timetable for Decisions**

5. The course is due to begin in June 2010.

### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

6. LLIP participants have devised a joint leadership development programme which incorporates high quality academic input; an accredited and marketable qualification; personal development opportunities and executive coaching and mentoring across each agency. This programme also provides added value through the completion of project work targeted at agreed local priorities. It is also an opportunity to build closer working relationships between the participating organisations.
7. This programme supports the County Council in developing and enhancing leadership capacity, one of the nine themes of the People Strategy. It promotes a partnership approach to leadership development, linked directly to the Local Area Agreement.
8. In June 2009, the Cabinet agreed an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules to enable a contract to be awarded to Warwick Business School for the provision of a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Leadership and Management from June 2009 for the duration of one eighteen month programme.

### **Legal Implications**

9. This service is categorised as a Part B service under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and is therefore not subject to full EU procurement requirements.
10. It is however subject to the General EU Treaty principles of ensuring equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency. Leicestershire County Council has taken the lead in procuring future requirements of this course for LLIP partners and has advertised the requirement to the market. The tendering process will be recommenced as soon as is practicable. The County Solicitor has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **Resources Implications**

11. The total cost of the Post Graduate Diploma in 2010 / 2011 is £150,000, which is being divided between the LLIP partners. The County Council's share of the total cost is expected to be between £12,000 and £24,000 depending on uptake. Discussions are under way with a view to establishing whether further funding is available.

## **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

12. None

### **Officers to Contact**

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

13. The need to develop a number of individuals has been identified in response to the perceived skills gap in the public sector in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The diploma has been assessed alongside similar courses from other providers. This initial assessment was undertaken by Leicestershire Constabulary.
14. WBS is a leading University based business school delivering world class degrees leading in research and management education and open executive education. WBS had previously reported to the Sunningdale Institute<sup>2</sup> on the position of leadership across the Public Service System in December 2008. It is from this advantageous position that WBS and the Leicestershire Constabulary entered into direct negotiation, before Leicestershire County Council undertook the lead procurement role in 2009.
15. The diploma has been tailored to the needs of local authorities and agencies. It will be delivered for up to twenty individuals spread amongst the LLIP partners over an eighteen month period. The total cost of delivery of up to twenty diplomas is up to £150,000. These costs will be split amongst the partners depending on uptake.
16. The success of the LLIP and delivery of the diploma is being closely monitored by Whitehall as a National Pilot within the Systems Leadership approach sponsored by government departments and agencies. The County Council has agreed to act as the lead authority on behalf of the LLIP to ensure uptake and delivery of the course given the focus on this National Pilot.
17. The Council will re-commence the procurement process at the earliest opportunity (likely to be June 2010) and will include the Council's wider requirement for Learning and Development as part of a collaborative arrangement with other authorities.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

19. None.

### **Background Papers**

20. Cabinet 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – Exception to the Contract Procedure Rules, Contract for the provision of a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Leadership & Management.

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<sup>2</sup> Part of National School of Government