

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 3 March 2022

Report of the Head of Service - Procurement

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:

Delivering better services;
Caring for the vulnerable;

Music Service - Music Hub Vehicle

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contacts for further information:

Rachel Tanner, Tel: (01772) 534904, Head of Service - Procurement,

rachel.tanner@lancashire.gov.uk

Tim Rogers, Tel: (01772) 517150, Service Lead - Music

tim.rogers@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

Over the past two years the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to a considerable gap in the educational, cultural and artistic development of many pupils. Although the music service offered online tuition and ensemble opportunities throughout lockdown, many pupils have been unable to satisfactorily develop their musical skills, as they have been unable to come together to rehearse or perform in bands and orchestras. These social music making opportunities are also vital in helping to attract new players to join groups.

The purchase of a music service vehicle will be an opportunity to inspire thousands of pupils to re-ignite their passion for music or start learning a musical instrument, supporting not only their academic achievement but contributing significantly to their mental health and wellbeing.

The procurement/budget allocation for a music service vehicle was approved by the Capital Board on 2 February 2022. There is time specific grant funding available which is linked to the purchase of the required vehicle, the necessary adaptations and any ongoing maintenance/running costs.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve a waiver of the county council's procurement rules as set out in paragraph 14.2 of the procurement rules of Appendix R to the county

council's Constitution, to allow a direct award of a contract to be made to Torton Bodies Limited, in respect of the supply of a 6.2m body Iveco Daily 72C18 chassis cab, requiring bespoke adaptations and a range of equipment including; wireless sound system and interactive whiteboard to support the requirements of usage.

Detail

This vehicle offered by Torton Bodies Limited has been identified as fit for purpose and has been discussed and agreed at both Music Service and Cultural Services Senior Management Team meetings.

This has been identified as a unique and innovative project to support young people across Lancashire. It will help to support pupils in the most isolated and deprived communities across Lancashire, including pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and vulnerable young people. Delivery of this initiative is in line with the county council's priorities including, delivering better services and caring for the vulnerable, whilst contributing to the Government's levelling up programme.

The vehicle will be used in a number of ways, including:

- To provide a COVID-19 safe environment for tuition and performance
- Provide an isolated teaching space
- Enabling pupils 'hands on' experience of a wide range of musical instruments
- Targeted support for pupils in rural locations and isolated communities
- To support pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- To provide a unique and personalised learning environment
- To provide an interactive and creative space for projects
- As a promotion tool for the music service, including use at musical festivals, and events across Lancashire
- To provide a physical platform for events and performances

Consultations

Discussion with Fleet Services have taken place to identify an appropriate vehicle and route to market.

Implications:

The full implications are included in Appendix 'A' which is exempt from publication for the reasons set out below.

Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Appendix 'A' contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that in the circumstances of the case the public interest of maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information