



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS – DIRECT AWARD TO THE SCHOLAR FORUM PARTNERSHIP

REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Council Executive approval to make a Direct Award to The Scholar Forum Partnership for the provision of e-Learning Support Services for a 3 year period.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive approves a direct award to The Scholar Forum Partnership for the next 3 years commencing 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022. The anticipated contract value is £77,274.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Direct awards will be made in accordance with Standing Orders of West Lothian Council and the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Giving children the best start in life.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The annual revenue budget is £26,000
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.

VIII Other consultations

The Corporate Procurement Unit has been consulted and the Corporate Finance Manager has been consulted on budget implications.

D.1 TERMS OF REPORT

D2

Background

The SCHOLAR Forum is a legal not-for-profit partnership between Heriot-Watt University and ADES (the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland), with the Education Authorities as members paying an annual subscription.

Membership of The SCHOLAR Forum includes but is not limited to :

- Subscribers have an annual licence to use the SCHOLAR e-learning content
- 33 CfE courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher
- Teachers are able to access materials in PDF format
- Print on Demand Study Guides are available for purchase
- Continuing Professional Development Events for Teachers and Pupils
- Live and recorded on line homework and revision sessions
- Usage data provision
- Technical support documentation
- Evaluation on the impact of SCHOLAR on attainment.

Membership of The SCHOLAR Forum particularly enhances the delivery of STEM subjects and modern languages. It encourages independent study and promotes flexibility and choice within our curriculum. SCHOLAR also supports parental engagement through Parental Evening support sessions. SCHOLAR is used extensively in all 11 Secondary Schools as both a teaching and study resource.

Exemption from the council's Standing Orders for the Regulation of Contracts is required as there is no known comparable service provider. Scholar is the only service provider who is able to combine high quality on line courses, blended learning, instant feedback, progress reports, revision planning, on line tutor sessions and printed study guides.

D3 In House Capability and Business Case Exemption

There is no in house capability to undertake this service.

As the Head of Corporate Services is unable to authorise this level of expenditure, Council Executive is required to consider the terms of this Report.

E. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Council Executive approves the direct award for the SCHOLAR Forum Partnership of £77,274 over a three year period.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: None.

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Date of meeting: 26 March 2019

