

Part A

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: Monday, 13 June 2022

Report author: Economic Development Consultant

Title: Contract Exemption - Young Entrepreneurs Project 2

1.0 Summary

1.1 Under the council's Contract Procedure Rules an exemption agreed with a value over £100,000 should be reported to Cabinet for noting.

1.2 A contract exemption was sought for the delivery of a second Young Entrepreneurs project to enable young people to benefit from a programme of business seminars, 121 mentoring and grant funding. This is being delivered by the University of Hertfordshire which successfully delivered the first pilot project. The exemption provided continuity with a trusted supplier, clear synergies with the pilot project and enables the project to be delivered at pace.

1.3 Attached as Appendix 1 is the exemption, in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules, agreed by the Group Head of Place Shaping and Managing Director and outlined with the Elected Mayor.

1.4 Cabinet is asked to note the exemption.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
Potential alternative suppliers challenge the council's decision to award this contract.	Limited due to the Award being Public Procurement Regulation compliant.	Award is compliant with Public Procurement Regulations using the Direct Award provision within the Pagabo framework; therefore there are	Tolerate	1

		no grounds for a challenge.		
Transparency in decision-making	Limited as mitigation steps have been taken.	Mitigated through seeking senior management approval then reported to cabinet.	Tolerate.	1

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That the exemption be noted.

Further information:

Emma Finn
emma.finn@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Tom Dobrashian, Group Head of Place Shaping

4.0 Detailed proposal

4.1 The detail of the exemption and the reason for it can be found in the Appendix 1 of this report.

4.2 An exemption was sought as the University of Hertfordshire is a trusted supplier, they had delivered a highly successful pilot programme and for continuity purposes. It was imperative that the ARG Government grant, which had funded this project was spent prior to the end of March 2022. Therefore, for continuity an exemption was sought on the grounds of clear synergies with existing services.

5 Implications

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that this project was entirely funded by Covid-19 Additional Restrictions Grant.

5.2 Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report. The exemption has been approved according to the Contract Procedure Rules.

5.3 Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection

5.3.1 There are no implications.

5.4 Staffing

5.4.1 There are no implications.

5.5 Accommodation

5.5.1 There are no implications.

5.6 Community Safety/Crime and Disorder

5.6.1 There are no implications.

5.7 Sustainability

5.7.1 There are no implications.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – contract exemption.

Background papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.