



Executive Summary of Agenda Item No. 9

Report title: Tender for the supply of Books to Library Service

Wards affected: All

Strategic Director: Alison Comley

Report Author: Kate Murray, Head of Libraries

Recommendation for the Mayor's approval:

1. To recognise the requirement for flexible contract terms, in line with local changing circumstances in all partner local authorities.
2. To agree to continue to procure the supply of books for Bristol Libraries, via CUSP using the ESPO framework 376F (library stock supply framework agreement).
3. To authorise the Strategic Director Neighbourhoods to participate in the CUSP tendering process and to appoint the preferred supplier/s from this process to supply book materials to Bristol Libraries

Key background / detail:

a. Purpose of report:

The current CUSP (Consortium for United Stock Purchase made up of 14 local authorities) book contract is due to expire at the end of March 2017. In order to ensure no break in the supply of books, a tender process must be undertaken now, with a contract to be in place for the beginning of April 2017.

There will be no commitment to a minimum, or indeed any spend, as part of the contract, thus ensuring flexibility in the changing circumstances that Bristol City Council is operating in.

b. Key details:

1. A tender process is the best way to ensure that Bristol Libraries are obtaining the best efficiencies and savings by going out to the market
2. The approximate annual spend is £400,000 on adult and children's books for Bristol libraries. This represents 63% of the current budget for expenditure on library materials of £630,000. The proposed contract length is 4 years plus an option to extend for a further 12 months. The maximum combined value over five years is £2,000,000, but could be lower.
3. CUSP is planning to use an existing ESPO Framework 376F (library stock supply framework agreement) with a mini competition for best value.

