

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 10 MARCH 2010**

### **EXTENSION OF CONTRACT TO RATHBONE TRAINING LTD**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Educational & Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet to extend the current Rathbone Training Ltd contract from 30 June 2010 to 30 June 2011, in line with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contract and Tendering.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Rathbone Training Ltd was commissioned to deliver an alternative vocational and educational service for up to twenty-five young people from across the East Ayrshire area. The service is designed to support those young people who cannot be sustained in a mainstream school. Young people referred to Rathbone Training Ltd require to have been subject to discussion at a Community Assessment Team Meeting and referrals made through the Youth Strategy Service.
- 2.2 The service is designed to deliver an individually tailored educational and vocational programme for each young person based on their ability and needs. It was procured in 2005 for a three year period with potential two year extension. The contract is therefore due for renewal on the 30 June 2010.

#### **3. PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT**

- 3.1 A number of developments have taken place within educational services which are being embedded into practice, in particular, the work of the More Choices: More Chances Strategic Partnership; the developments around alternative curricular programmes and the development of Curriculum for Excellence.
- 3.2 A review has also been carried out of the Network Support Service and the Youth Strategy Service. The outcome of this will be reported to a future Cabinet.
- 3.3 One of the issues which the department is currently reviewing is whether an alternative educational and vocational programme can be developed in-house or whether a revised specification should be developed and a new service procured. This piece of work has taken longer than anticipated due to a number competing priorities linked to a key vacant post. The proposal is therefore to extend the current contract with Rathbone Training Ltd to allow an appropriate lead in time for the completion of the review and subsequent service to be procured, if appropriate. It is proposed to extend the contract

until 30 June 2011 due to the length of time a service takes to be procured in line with the Council's Standing Orders and the time required to conclude the review. In addition, given the vulnerability of many of the children supported we would not wish to make changes to service provision part way through an academic session.

#### **4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The current contract cost is £168,850.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The proposals set out in this paper adhere to the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Tendering, Section 20 (1) and (2).

#### **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The proposals set out in this report are set within the context of the Lifelong Learning Theme of the Community Plan.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Contract compliance arrangements are in place in respect of Rathbone Training Ltd.

#### **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Any new procured service would be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

#### **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 Members of Cabinet are asked to:

- (i) approve the recommendation to extend the current contract with Rathbone Training Ltd until 30 June 2011; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

Graham R Short  
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services

18 February 2010  
GRS/KG

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Service Level Agreement Rathbone Training Ltd

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Service:  
Community Support, Tel: 01563 576104.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR**