

# Finance & Resources Committee

10:00am, Tuesday, 25 April 2023

## Assessment of Pupil Progress in Literacy and Maths Attainment - Extension via Waiver of Contract Standing Orders

Executive  
Wards  
Council Commitments [34](#) All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Resources Committee:
- 1.1. Approves a contract extension to GL Education for provision of services relating to assessments to track pupil progress and attainment in schools via a waiver of Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) to the value of £180,000.

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# Report

## Assessment of Pupil Progress in Literacy and Maths Attainment - Extension via Waiver of CSOs

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 Approves a contract extension to GL Education for provision of services relating to assessments to track pupil progress and attainment in schools via a waiver of Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) to the value of £180,000 for up to eighteen months, to allow short-term continuity of services in the best interest of children and young people.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 In line with the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 and in discharging duties around GIRFEC and the principles of a Curriculum for Excellence, schools are required to monitor and track pupils' progress and attainment. Assessments and the data collected from this, plays a part in ensuring we are meeting the needs of our pupils and have high aspirations for their learning. Regular assessment is essential to ensuring teachers' judgements about pupils' progress in learning are rigorous to ensure future learning is pitched at the right level.
- 3.2 All schools assess learners' progress using National Standardised Assessments in P1, 4, 7 & S3. The assessments cover aspects of reading, writing and numeracy with learners being assessed once a year. This provides diagnostic reports detailing areas where learners have shown strengths and where they require support. Formative assessment, in the course of learning and teaching, is essential in planning next steps in learning. This includes verbal and written feedback provided by the teacher. Many schools, as part of their calendar for tracking and monitoring of learners' progress, assess learning using a range of supplementary assessment tools. GL provides a range of such assessments e.g. Baseline assessments to inform curriculum planning, teaching and learning, New Group Spelling Test (NGST) , York Assessment of Reading for Comprehension (YARC).

- 3.3 Services for assessing and tracking pupil attainment and progress is currently provided by GL Education, with the contract previously extended via a waiver of CSOs under Delegated Authority.
- 3.4 Children, Education and Justice Services is currently working with Commercial and Procurement Services (CPS) to develop a Learning & Teaching procurement framework, which will provide a sustainable long term compliant solution, however this is not in place as yet and thus continuity of services will be required.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Education Senior Leadership Team, in partnership with the Planning and Commissioning Team and CPS, are currently redesigning services to more closely align with place-based approaches to improve outcomes for children and their families and to provide opportunities to deliver best value.
- 4.2 Until the establishment of a commissioning team last year, and in line with the direction set by the Scottish Government, the approach had been to allow delegated decision making around third party spends to Head Teachers as they are best placed to make decisions around the needs of their learning community.
- 4.3 Over the last twelve months work has been prioritised around ensuring we have frameworks to support the spend around funding for equity streams which encompass a place-based approach.
- 4.4 The services provided by GL Education assessments support schools to ensure every child reaches their potential by providing our Teachers and senior leaders in school with data sets that help us understand the range of needs and respond to them effectively. This helps to measure the impact of interventions and initiatives key to tackling the poverty related attainment gap.
- 4.5 As work continues to progress with the transition to the new framework agreements, Committee approval is being sought to extend the current contract with GL Education for eighteen months via a waiver of CSOs. This short term extension (maximum value of £180,000) is necessary for continuity ensuring school leadership teams can continue accessing the assessments and data analysis tools in support of:
- raising attainment across literacy and numeracy by highlighting strengths and identifying gaps in learning
  - monitoring and tracking of individual, specific cohorts locally and across the authority
  - measuring impact of interventions and initiatives that tackle the poverty related attainment gap.

- 4.6 GL Education services can be bought in where schools wish additional resource or data to support formative assessment out with current SNSA assessments.
- 4.7 Many schools in the Authority have established the use of GL Education assessments and the year-on-year data that this provides to track learners' progress.
- 4.8 The previous spend for GL Education had been approved within Delegated Authority limits, however this further extension will take the value above the threshold, hence the need for Committee approval.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Subject to approval, the contract will be extended, and the spend monitored accordingly.
- 5.2 Extension to the arrangements with the current provider will ensure continuity of the services.
- 5.3 Each School will be responsible for their own payments with additional support being provided through a joint contract management approach which will inform the new framework agreement.
- 5.4 We anticipate the stakeholder and market engagement for the Learning & Teaching Framework to continue for approximately six months. Competitive procedures could take a further six months to complete. We anticipate the Learning and Teaching Framework to be available to schools for their quality improvement planning exercises from May 2024.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 The estimated spend for the next eighteen months is £180,000, based on the spend for 22/23 financial year. All proposed arrangements are within existing budgetary provision levels.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 A short life working group is established to consider and co-produce an innovative and compliant framework of commissioned services for Schools and Lifelong Learning.
- 7.2 Market engagement and coproduction with providers, voluntary sector, partner agencies and service users are being progressed according to the set timescales for each requirement

## **8. Background/External Reading**

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N/A

## **9. Appendices**

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N/A