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**Report to: Schools Forum**

**Date 21st January 2021**

**Report of: Nigel Harvey-Whitten, Assistant Director, Commissioning – Education & Skills**

**Title: School Improvement Contract**

**Status For consultation**

**Purpose**

To formally consult with the Forum on the terms of the proposed contract for the provision of School Improvement.

**Proposed Approach**

The contract will be for a period of up to seven years, commencing on 1st July 2021 with a break clause at year three and five for the estimated value of £7.560m. This is based on the estimated value of the contract using historical data of £1.089m per annum.

The Council wishes to encourage tenderers to use their market experience to propose the most efficient outcomes-based service. Therefore, the Council shall not prescribe the way in which the services shall be delivered. This allows the procurement process to encourage tenderers to demonstrate, via a proposed Future Operating Model how they will meet the Council’s high-level outcomes.

The services will be procured via an open procurement route given that the services can be clearly defined and that only a small number of organisations can provide the services required.

The expected outcomes for the procurement exercise are as follows:

• That Birmingham settings are engaged and have a relationship with the potential provider in relation to school improvement;

• That the profile and outcomes of Birmingham schools and pupils are improving so that the cities performance reaches and exceeds that of statistical neighbours and national averages;

• Focus on a school-led system which unites schools for the collective benefit of all pupils within Birmingham;

• Seek to strengthen system leadership across Birmingham, developing a brokerage role, particularly through strengthening processes for identification and use of strong practitioners from maintained and non-maintained schools;

• Be able to swiftly and effectively challenge and support schools and provide intervention where applicable and recommend formal intervention to the Council;

• Work in conjunction with schools and the Council to review the range and volume of existing school groupings and networks in Birmingham, with the aim of reducing duplication and increasing effectiveness on an ongoing basis; and

• Cultivate a research-based approach which underpins school-led improvement, sharing best practice local, regionally and nationally to ensure Birmingham is continuously improving and striving for all pupils.

**Next Steps & Timescales**

The tender is due to go live mid-March with the evaluation panel made up of senior leaders from across the Council, including those with OfSted Inspector experience.

The Forum is asked to comment on the proposals and is invited to identify a representative to be on the evaluation process.