

**THE EXECUTIVE**

**18 MARCH 2003**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ARTS & LIBRARIES**

<b>RECEPTION &amp; RE-INTEGRATION UNIT ST. GEORGES COMPLEX</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>
<p><i>This report seeks a waiver under Section 4.1(e) of the tendering provisions contained in the Council's Contract Rules and relates to the erection of a demountable building on the above site.</i></p> <p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>The Government funded Behaviour Improvement Programme provides for a Reception &amp; Re-Integration Unit catering for children with a record of poor attendance at school.</p> <p>The Unit will be staffed by specialists and deal with children who through a number of reasons have difficulty integrating into the school environment i.e. long term illness, psychological difficulties etc., they are not children with disruptive behavioural problems.</p> <p>The Unit is to be housed in a demountable type building and will be located on part of the St. George's Site.</p> <p>The Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) are re-locating to the site and Borrás Construction Ltd have already provided the cheapest price to carry out alterations and erect a similar demountable building manufactured by the Elliot Group on another part of the site.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Executive is asked to agree to a waiver of the normal tendering arrangements in accordance with Section 4.1(e) of the Council's Contract Rules and accept the tender price of £133,615 submitted by Borrás Construction Ltd.</p> <p><b><u>Reasons</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Borrás Construction Ltd has already provided the cheapest price for similar work on site and utilisation of another contractor would be unlikely to reduce the cost. Officers have been entirely satisfied with Borrás' previous performance on similar contracts for the Council.</li><li>• There is a cost implication in providing specifications and information for another tender.</li><li>• Funding is provided by a Government initiative which requires that the money be spent by August 2003 and a further tender process would cause delays and could jeopardise the project.</li></ul>	

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## 1. **Present Position**

- 1.1 Following a successful bid by the Department of Education Arts and Libraries, the Council was awarded a Government grant of £1.4 Million per annum for 3 years to fund a Behavioural Improvement Programme.
- 1.2 The Project aims to raise attendance rates in schools, improve behaviour in pupils and reduce street crime in the Borough.
- 1.3 The programme has seven measures, contained in one of which is the provision of a Reception and Re-Integration Unit. The Unit has specialist staff who will concentrate on children who have difficulty in integrating into normal school life for a variety of reasons but is not designed to cater for disruptive pupils for which there is other provision.
- 1.4 A number of staff have already been appointed, but are working from unsatisfactory accommodation. The need for dedicated facilities is urgent if the best results are to be achieved.
- 1.5 In the long term the Unit will be located at the Jo Richardson School site but for the foreseeable future, accommodation is to be provided in a purpose built demountable on part of the St. George's Site (plans are available).
- 1.6 The CVS and a number of voluntary organisations are to be re-located to St Georges in order to free up the Faircross site to expand Eastbury School.
- 1.7 In this connection Borrás Construction Ltd tendered for the work and were the cheapest. The contract has not as yet been awarded due to alterations required by the CVS but it is not anticipated that there will be a change of contractor.
- 1.8 Planning permission for the Reception & Re-Integration has been applied for and recommended and it is anticipated that it will be approved shortly under delegated powers.

## 2. **The Project**

- 2.1 Borrás Construction Ltd have submitted a tender price of £133,615 to carry out the work based on the tendered rates applicable to the supply and erection of a similar demountable building on the same site.
- 2.2 Borrás Construction Ltd. has carried out work for the Council in the past and officers have found their performance to be entirely satisfactory.

2.3 The Executive should note that the funding for this project is directly provided by the Government as part of the Behaviour Improvement Programme. The money has to be spent by August 2003. Initiating a tender process at this stage would cause a delay and could compromise the whole project.

### **3. Proposal**

3.1 It is recommended that the Executive waive the requirements of the Council's Contract rules to enable a contract to be placed with Borrás Construction Ltd to erect a purpose designed demountable office building supplied by the Elliot Group at a cost of £133,615.

### **4. Consultation and Implications**

4.1 The Council's Quantity Surveyors, Potter Raper Partnership have indicated that they can verify that the final costs will represent "value for money" having been negotiated on similar rates etc.

4.2 The following have been consulted and their recommendations are included in the report :-  
The Head of Audit, The Corporate Procurement Officer, The Solicitor to the Council and The Head of Finance (Education, Arts and Libraries).

### **Background papers used in the preparation of this report**

- Council's Contract Rules
- L.B. Barking & Dagenham Behaviour Improvement Programme.