
Report of Interpreting and Translation Team Co-ordinator

Report to Chief Officer of Customer Access

Date: 4 May 2017

Subject: BSL Video Interpreting Extension to Contract

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report seeks approval from the Chief Officer of Customer Access to authorise to waive contract procedure rules 8.1 and 8.2 and award a new contract to Significan't UK Ltd t/a SignVideo Ltd for the provision of BSL video interpreting for a 12 month period to allow time to prepare new tender documents.

Recommendations

2. The Chief Officer of Customer Access to authorise to waive contract procedure rules 8.1 and 8.2 and award a new contract to Significan't UK Ltd t/a SignVideo Ltd for the provision of BSL video interpreting for a 12 month period to allow time to prepare new tender documents

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the Chief Officer of Customer Access to authorise to waive contract procedure rules 8.1 and 8.2 and award a new contract to Significan't UK Ltd t/a SignVideo Ltd for the provision of BSL video interpreting for a 12 month period to allow time to prepare new tender documents

2 Background information

- 2.2 Following a tender exercise, a contract was awarded to Significan't UK Ltd t/a SignVideo for a period of 12 months with the option of two 12 month extensions. The contract start date was 1 June 2014 and an end date (inclusive of extensions) of May 2017.
- 2.3 The contract is to provide BSL video interpreting. Following mobilisation of the service, BSL interpreting has been provided by SignVideo through video phone at The Compton Centre, 2 Great George Street and the Council's website.
- 2.4 The service is now delivered at the following: Armley Community Hub, Horsforth Community Hub, The Compton Centre Hub, The Reginald Centre, 2 Great George Street and through the Council's website.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 PPPU have advised the current contract YORE-9GH74X for British Sign Language Video Interpreting services is due to expire on 31.05.2017.
- 3.2 From April 2015 – March 2017, approximately 74 hours of British Sign Language video interpreting have been used to enable Deaf customers to access council services and this will continue to provide equality in access to services.
- 3.3 The BSL video interpreting service supports the general Council policies for improving access to services to Deaf and hard of hearing customers.
- 3.4 The provision of BSL video interpreting will continue to run alongside the current service of face to face BSL interpreters.
- 3.5 New tender documents will be produced to carry out a new procurement.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The service is being monitored by the Interpreting and Translation Team and feedback is being received from members of the Deaf community.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 In order to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and access, foster good relations between different groups in the community, the continuation of the contract will continue to bring the Deaf and hearing impaired community to the same level of service of hearing customers.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The extension of the contract will continue to help with the city ambition that Leeds will be fair, open and welcoming and in particular, to be a better city for communities.

4.4 Resources and value for money

The cost of the contract to-date is £14,319 therefore falls well under the EU threshold.

The performance of the contractor has been very good and delivered the service to a high standard and no issues. It also promotes accessibility and inclusion which would be badly impacted should the contract not be extended.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The proposed action is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 This service plays a pivotal support service for the Deaf and hearing impaired community. Without the provision of BSL video interpreting, the Interpreting and Translation Team will continue to provide face to face BSL interpreting sessions only. This will not enable us to provide an equality of access to Deaf and hearing impaired customers. Without this service, it will negatively impact on the service users' ability to access essential services.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The extension to the contract for the provision of BSL video interpreting will continue to meet the immediate accessibility for Deaf and hearing impaired customers resulting in equal access.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Chief Officer of Customer Access to authorise to waive contract procedure rules 8.1 and 8.2 and award a new contract to Significan't UK Ltd t/a SignVideo Ltd for the provision of BSL video interpreting for a 12 month period to allow time to prepare new tender document.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.