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**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS**  
**DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

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**SUBJECT: ICT Strategic Partner for Building Schools for the Future – selection of Preferred Bidder**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report seeks Executive Board's approval for the appointment of a Preferred Bidder for the ICT Strategic Partner and for delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the BSF /PFI Project Board to conduct final negotiations and contract award for the ICT Strategic Partner.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 2 As part of the Building Schools for the Future programme the City Council is procuring a Strategic Partner for ICT. This contract is being let alongside but separately from the main Local Education Partnership contract in order to gain further benefits across the city to enhance education and to enable transformation of teaching and learning in all schools
- 3 The appointment of an ICT Strategic Partner is a key part of achieving the wider successes of the Building Schools for the Future programme, especially the transformation of teaching and learning through the use of ICT. The Partner will also work with Leeds City Council and Education Leeds in ensuring that all schools in the city are able to make more effective use of ICT in addressing key transformational projects, such as personalisation.
- 4 The ICT Strategic Partner will be providing a range of services to the City Council and to schools in the BSF programme. These include professional development for staff, design and implementation of ICT solutions for the new schools and the provision of an ongoing fully managed service for the BSF schools. A range of citywide events and activities will promote the benefits of ICT use in education across all schools, and in particular the Partner will support the implementation and further development of the Learning Platform introduced as part of the enhancement of services available through the Leeds Learning Network.
- 5 Bidding has been conducted under full European tendering regulations over a period from November 2005 (issue of a tender notice to the Official Journal of the European Union) through to October 2006 (recommendation of Preferred Bidder). The evaluation has run to the revised timetable.

- 6 The ICT Strategic Partner contract will be for a period initially until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, with an extension available at the Council's discretion for a further period until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The initial period will cover the design and implementation phases of all schools in the Building Schools for the Future programme and a five year operational period following completion of building works.
- 7 The full evaluation panel has been involved in the allocation of scores through a rigorous regime which reflects that of the Local Education Partnership procurement. This has involved a thorough evaluation of bids on the basis of legal, financial and technical responses and a clarification regime managed through the LCC Procurement Unit.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8 That Executive Board approve the selection of a Preferred Bidder for the ICT Strategic Partner contract
- 9 That Executive Board approve the delegation of authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the BSF /PFI Project Board to conduct final contract negotiations and award.