

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Philip Leigh

Subject/ Title:
Greater Manchester Emerging Drug Trends and Drug Testing (GM TRENDS)

Type of decision:			
Deputy Mayor's decision	x	Chief Officer's decision	

In all cases this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

<p>The decision is that: The current agreement with Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) for the delivery of the GM TRENDS research and laboratory testing will be extended for 12 months to 31st May 2025 at the value of £72,000.</p>
<p>The reasons for the decision are: The agreement with Manchester Metropolitan University provides for drug use monitoring to keep professionals and the public well-informed and respond to the threat of new, potent, or adulterated drugs.</p> <p>The agreement includes a research project to identify changes and emerging issues in the use of substances by Greater Manchester residents and for 120 laboratory tests on samples obtained across Greater Manchester by the police. The entry of potent synthetic opioids into the UK drugs market makes the testing of available samples a critical element in preventing drug related deaths.</p> <p>The agreement requires that the testing laboratory is able to receive, test, and destroy controlled drugs. The MANDRAKE laboratory at MMU is nationally and internationally affiliated providing data directly to Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Early Warning Advisory (UNODC EWA).</p> <p>MMU's facility has a permanent Manchester city-centre based laboratory which is the only fully home office licensed, non-commercial facility in Greater Manchester and is formally embedded into the Greater Manchester Police forensic pathway. No other organisation holds a similar position within either GM or the wider UK.</p>

The requirement to provide testing services alongside research projects means that MMU is considered the only supplier who can meet the requirements of the agreement.

Following this extension, the next project will be put to tender to provide assurance that the sole supplier status is valid.

This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:

This aligns with the GMS priority around building safer and stronger communities.

The decision also contributes to various elements of the Greater Manchester Combatting Drugs Partnership Strategic Delivery Plan

Procurement comments:

No procurement concerns. It is understood that this extension is to be the last undertaken on this basis and that a solution fully compliant with the relevant procurement regulations is to be undertaken for the next contract period.

Commercial services file reference: **GMCA 1133.1**

Financial comments:

Funding for GM TRENDS is provided from the Community Safety Fund.

The value for 12-months from 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025 is £72,000.

Legal comments:

A direct award for the services described may be permissible under the GMCA Contract Procurement Rules which state that an exemption to the usual CPR may be approved where:

Only one contractor can provide the goods, services or works required and there is no reasonable alternative contractor.

The provider in this instance is described as being in a unique position to provide the services, and whilst the value of the proposed award is below procurement regulations threshold values, direct awards of contracts may be made in limited circumstances, set out at regulation 32 of the PCR ("Negotiated procedure without prior publication") which allows a direct award of a contract without publication (a direct award) "(b) where the works,

supplies or services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator (because) competition is absent for technical reasons”.

Risk Assessment:

Delivery risks are managed via Manchester Metropolitan University polices, procedures, and ethics.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

Covered by Manchester Metropolitan University polices, procedures, and ethics.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:

Covered by Manchester Metropolitan University polices, procedures, and ethics.

Agreed by Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire

Signed



Date 11th September 2024

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer

Signed

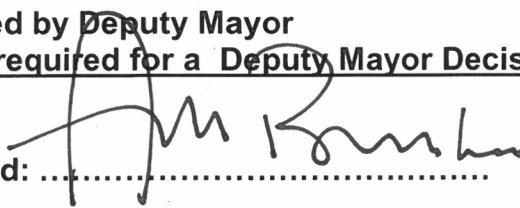


Date 12/09/2024

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

Only required for a Deputy Mayor Decision on amounts of £50,000+

Signed:



Date:

1 / 10 / 2024

Contact Officer: