

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Philip Leigh

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| Subject/ Title: |
| Greater Manchester Drugs Early Warning System |

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| Type of decision: | | | |
| Deputy Mayor's decision | | Chief Officer's decision | X |

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

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| <p>The decision is that: The contract with Linnell Communications for the provision of a Greater Manchester Drugs Early Warning System (DEWS) is extended by a period of 12-months (1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025) at a value of £20,950.</p> <p>The extension is in accordance with the provisions in section 2.1 of the contract document (Contract Number GMCA 490).</p> <p>The reasons for the decision are:</p> <p>DEWS contributes to the GM ambition to reduce drug related deaths and drug related harm as described below.</p> <p>DEWS provides a valuable resource for professionals to report incidents relating to the use of drugs, seek specialist knowledge and support, and establish incidents or patterns relating to particular problem substances (e.g. adulterated or incorrectly identified batches in circulation).</p> <p>DEWS provides each Greater Manchester local authority area with a Local Drug Information System (LDIS) where professionals from a range of organisations such as police, schools, hospitals, substance misuse services, and youth services, can submit and receive reports of incidents relating to drugs, emerging drugs, and changes to the local market.</p> <p>DEWS enables the review of any significant incidents or developments relating to drugs and provides support ranging from targeted information to professionals/drug users to general public announcements. These are co-ordinated prior to release with relevant GM/local organisations such as GMCA, police, local authority, and health services.</p> |
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The initial period of the contract has been provided efficiently and effectively by Linnell Communications and has contributed significantly to drugs intelligence across GM.

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. The extension is foreseen within the contract for this requirement and is therefore fully compliant with regulations.

Commercial Services ref: GMCA 490.

Financial comments:

Funding will be from the FIM, Cost Centre: 3007, Account Code: 5153.

The original Decision Notice to award the contract (signed by DM 07/02/2023), noted that the budget holder confirmed that the financial commitment is planned into the budget for the full term of the contract.

Legal comments:

It is an established principle that an existing public contract is capable of being extended (or modified providing any modification does not affect the overall nature of the contract), and GMCA Contract procurement Rules also allow for contract extensions to be made, where the parties agree and where the original contract makes provision for such an extension of the original term.

When the contract was originally awarded to the provider, it was clear in the documentation that the original term would be subject to potential extension, hence, and the option to extend within the contract is now being properly exercised.

Risk Assessment:

DEWS lowers the risk of drug related deaths and harm across GM by providing accurate and timely information to professionals and drugs users.

The principal risk related to the delivery of DEWS is the possibility of providing inaccurate or poorly co-ordinated information to targeted groups or the general public. This risk is substantially mitigated by the proposed contract award to Linnell Communications which brings an extensive track record of delivering accurate information in co-ordination with key organisations across GM and proving high quality advice to professionals/organisations.

A secondary risk is that the proposed provider is a sole trader and therefore there is no support within Linnell Communications if the principal is unable to provide the service. The bid submission recognises this risk and provides a plan whereby other suitably qualified individuals can deliver the service in the absence of the principal.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:


DEWS will not be engaged in the safeguarding of children.

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

DEWS will not be engaged in the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

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

Signed



Date 19th September 2024

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer

Signed.....

Date.....

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

Signed:

Date:

Contact Officer: Philip Leigh