



Policy and Resources Committee - 11 October 2010

Nene Valley News - Procurement of new contract and consultation on the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity

Summary

This report

1) seeks nominations for Member representation as part of the procurement process and delegated authority to award the contract for Nene Valley News at the end of that process and
2) seeks a nomination for a member to work with the Head of Customer and Community Services to develop a response to the consultation document on the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

Attachment(s)

None

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following consideration of a range of options for Nene Valley News (NVN), the procurement of a new 2 year contract for Nene Valley News starting April 2011 was approved by Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting on 13 September 2010.
- 1.2 Because of the potential value of the contract, the procurement process follows the procedure and timescales laid down under EU law. The Welland Procurement Unit is assisting ENC officers with this process.
- 1.3 When the last contract was procured Members of the Policy and Resources Committee Councillor Robin Underwood (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor John Richardson were nominated to serve on a Member/Officer Panel to deal with the arrangements. This included assessment of tenders, interview of contractors and the final award of the contract. Member representation is now needed for the current procurement process for the new contract.

2.0 Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

- 2.1 Members will recall that the report on 13 September included reference to the fact that the government had expressed concern about the impact that council publications have on local paid-for newspapers.
- 2.2 Further to this a consultation document on the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity was published on 29 September and includes the following guidance relevant to the publication of Council newspapers.

Appropriate use of publicity

28. Local authorities should not publish newsletters, newssheets or similar communications which seek to emulate commercial newspapers in style or content. Where local authorities do commission or publish newssheets, they should not issue them more frequently than quarterly. They should not include material other than information for the public about the business, services and amenities of the council or other local service providers.

The full consultation document can be viewed at
www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/publicitycodeconsult2010

3.3 Clearly, should the new code be adopted then the recent decision and arrangements regarding publishing Nene Valley News will need to be reviewed. The consultation document does not include a prospective date for the effectiveness of any new code.

3.4 At the time of writing the OJEU notice to tender for NVN has been published and the Council is in receipt of six requests for pre qualification questionnaires in the first two days.

3.0 Recommendations

3.5 It is therefore recommended that members

- 1) Continue with the procurement process, up to the stages prior to any contractual obligations, to enable the Council to meet the required deadlines; should the proposed changes to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity not be implemented
- 2) Nominate two representatives from the committee to serve on a panel for the procurement process;
- 3) Identify a representative from the committee to work with the Head of Community and Customer Services to develop a response to the consultation document by the deadline of 10 November 2010.
- 4) Agree that a report be brought back to the Policy & Resources Committee at the appropriate time for members to reconsider the decision to continue with a publication after 31 March 2011, taking into account the latest legal position.

Implications:	
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy	
Good Quality of Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Good Reputation <input type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Quality Service Delivery <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong Community Leadership <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of our Customers and Communities <input type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date <input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation <input type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks <input type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - <input type="checkbox"/> residual risk score - <input type="checkbox"/>
Staff	There are no additional staffing implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities and Human Rights	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	Power: Local Government Acts 1972 & 1986
	Other considerations: Public Service Contracts Directive (92/50/EEC - Restricted Procedure)

Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity 1988, with update April 2001.					
Background Papers: Nene Valley News report to Policy & Resources Committee 13 September 2010					
Person Originating Report: Janet Walls, Communications Manager					
Date: 23 September 2010					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 20)