

PIN: Digital Inclusion

1.0 Invitation

Moray Council is submitting this Prior Information Notice (PIN) to ascertain if there are ICT consultancy firms who would have the skills and experience to help support this Authority to further develop its digital approach to raising attainment and to improving access to digital technology for all of our learners.

2.0 Overview

Our preference is to work with a single supplier, however, the wide ranging scope outlined in this PIN may mean that the Authority could consider procuring more than one provider in relation to different elements of our strategy where there is a commitment from the providers to work jointly on an agreed approach.

Our key considerations in making an appointment will be around the development of an inclusive strategic approach that delivers educational results, Correspondingly, while our preference would be to procure a single consultancy firm who would be able to provide devices as well as providing digital consultancy this would not be a critical selection criteria for the successful appointment of a consultancy firm.

To this end, we are looking for a consultancy:-

- who can demonstrate a creative and an innovation approach throughout the process of developing the Council's Digital Inclusion Strategy;
- that is outcomes driven and places educational attainment at the centre of this project;
- that can meaningfully engage with all stakeholders and most importantly our learners in Moray in developing our strategy;
- that we can work with as a trusted expert and who shares our aims and values; and
- who will embrace a project management approach.
- With a track record of success in this area

This will mean that the consultancy we are looking for can work at pace, has appropriate experience (at scale and size) and can deliver tangible project outputs within a short lead in time from the acceptance of any contract.

3.0 Scope

There are four key work activity areas which we would like to develop. These areas are:-

3.1 Strategic Definition

Acknowledging the rapidly changing landscape of the use of digital technology in the education sector in recent years, Moray Council is looking for support in developing our vision for the deployment of digital technology throughout our learning estate.

This will be articulated in the development of a high level Strategy which will focus on how digital technology can support learners to realise their learning outcomes from the early learning childcare phase (age 3) through to the senior secondary school phase (age 18).

The key output in relation to this work activity area would be a 4 Year Digital Inclusion Strategy for Moray Learners that articulates our vision and outcomes that is aligned to our education priorities.

The strategy will also need to be sensitive to the rurality of Moray and challenges with broadband capacity and will inform the development of underpinning project business cases.

3.2 Roll out of 1:1 Devices

The Scottish Government has made a commitment to provide 70,000 primary and secondary school pupils with access to an appropriate digital device by the end of the current parliamentary term. Although Moray Council has previously allocated in the region of 12,000 devices to primary and secondary school pupils as part of our response to the COVID pandemic, this is a significant transformational investment for our learning estate. In the developing of our approach, we can see that there will be learning we gain from other organisations and we would like to secure specialist support in undertaking our options appraisal and the development of our business case.

Moray Council will have access to a limited number of ICT platforms and we would therefore require support in being able to access a wide range of platforms as part of the options appraisal or test of change.

The key output in relation to this work activity area would be supporting the 1:1 options appraisal process (including the use of platforms not currently accessed by the Council), supporting a test of change/proof of concept and supporting the development of a business case.

3.3 Infrastructure Advice

In relation to the options appraisal leading to the rollout of 1:1 devices, expert advice on ICT connectivity and infrastructure issues in terms of supporting the Council's learning estate will also be a key output.

ICT infrastructure issues are accentuated by the geographically isolated located of many of Moray's rural schools.

3.4 Mentoring

The final work activity area would be in relation to providing ongoing mentoring and support to Council Officers. This would relate to advising Council Officers in relation to the development of ICT Policy, Procedures, Practices and Plans.

The key output in relation to this work activity would be able to advise Council Officers on the resolution of issues and to offer workable solutions on a broad range of ICT and education related challenges.

4.0 Style of Working

Digital Inclusion is part of the Council's Improvement and Modernisation Programme. This Council wide transformational change programme is underpinned by a strong project management approach and the expectation is that the consultancy firm that we decide to engage with would also share and work to a project management methodology.

Furthermore, our way of working is based on co-production and inclusion.

In order to maximise the use of the technology for educational benefits and to support a positive learning environment, the direct involvement of learners and teachers is paramount.

The development of digital solutions needs to be inclusive to ensure fitness for purpose now and in the future. This will mean supporting teachers to maximise the use of digital connectivity and to make this their preferred way of working. Engaging with staff and helping them to upskill so that they can take full advantage of innovations in digital technology is an important part of the culture change we wish to develop.

The consultancy selected will therefore be working with Officers and education staff but will also engage with parents, primary and secondary school pupils. A co-productive approach will be especially important in terms of the options appraisal and proof of concept stages of our strategy development.

We will therefore seek to seek work with a consultancy that shares our commitment of adopting an inclusive partnership based approach; working co-productively with staff, parents and learners.

5.0 Duration

At this stage, it is proposed that any contract developed would be for up to 3 years. Based on a review of progress, a further extension of 2 years would be considered.

If you need clarification on any of the above points, please submit your questions via the excel portal.