



# RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION – Part 3 Section 16

**DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION** Jayne Ivory  
**TAKEN BY:**  
**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Schools and Education

**SUBJECT: SIMS Support Service to BwD Schools**

## 1. DECISION

To approve the award of a contract to OSMIS Education Limited for the provision of a SIMS Support Service to schools via the Everything ICT Framework from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 with the option to extend for a further 12 months. Annual value of the contract £88,250.07 (excluding VAT)

## 2. REASON FOR DECISION

OSMIS Education Limited currently provide the SIMS Support Service to schools on behalf of BwD who offer this as a Service Level Agreement to schools. The service is highly regarded and well supported by BwD schools.

Everything ICT have put in place a framework agreement for a full range of ICT products, services and support. The agreement is open to all UK public sector organisations and provides a compliant and competitive Procurement Vehicle to meet this service requirement.

## 3. BACKGROUND

All maintained primary and secondary schools as well as some nurseries take a support service for their SIMs system, as it is a business critical system it is essential that support is of a high quality with rapid response and fix times alongside appropriately tailored guidance to schools. This is currently provided via a contract with OSMIS Education Limited. For academies and free schools, some support is bundled with the licencing charge to Capita as they cannot buy from the LA licencing agreement and have to be a Capita Direct school. Many find this is insufficient and therefore choose to purchase additional support through BwD.

Through Capita, the LA is able to secure preferential pricing for the Sims software licensing for its maintained schools. To do this the Sims Annual Support and Entitlement return is completed by the LA on behalf of the schools. As an LA under the terms of the licence agreement, Capita require us to be ultimately responsible for ensuring there is quality SIMS support for the schools. If not delivering a service via our own in house staff, we must sign an FM agreement with Capita indicating our nominated service provider, currently this is OSMIS Education Limited.

## 4. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

**1. To undertake a full Find a Tender Service (FAS) procurement exercise for the award of a longer-term contract.**

This option was rejected as Capita SIMS are currently developing a new cloud based product as a replacement for the current version of SIMS which was due for release to primary schools in January 2018. However, there have been on-going issues with the development of the SIMS Primary Product and this is not yet generally available. It is currently being tested by a small number of primary schools across the country. Plans for a secondary product are also in the pipeline but there is limited information about this. There is also limited information with regards to the commercial model around the new products, whether the LA level annual entitlement will continue and at what point schools will be required to switch over. Given the uncertainty around this it would be unwise to undertake a procurement for a longer term SIMS Support Contract as we would not know the level of service required over the life of such a contract. Due to Covid-19 pandemic there was also limited capacity for officers to be able to undertake such an exercise.

**2. To sign the LA held software licence over to schools** at a cost of £200 per school and allow them to become SIMS Direct schools. Once this is done the licence would transfer to each school and the LA would no longer 'own' the licence. Cost to schools would increase as the preferential rate offered to the LA would not be offered to SIMS Direct schools and schools would have freedom to choose a support provider on an individual basis. Overall, this would increase costs to schools for the licence and support of SIMS and limit the LA ability to work in a collective partnership with the provider to support statutory returns and school improvement priorities.

**3. To request a procurement waiver.** This is not necessary due to the availability of an appropriate framework.

*Further information is available from the report author*

#### 5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

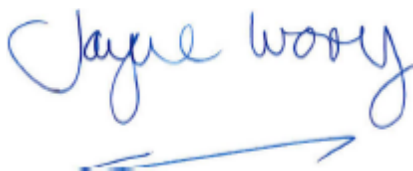
<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
-----------------	----------

<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Charlotte Hesketh</b>
-------------------------	--------------------------

<b>DATE:</b>	12/03/2021
--------------	------------

<b>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:</b>	
------------------------------	--

Signed:



<b>Strategic Director of children's services &amp; Education</b>	<b>Date: 12/03/2021</b>
--	-------------------------