

Requisition of Executive Decision – Procurement of Synergy Education Management System

Grounds for Requisition

I hereby submit a formal call-in requisition concerning the executive decision titled “Procurement of Synergy Education Management System”, reference 9594.

The councillors supporting this call-in are:

1. Councillor Petru Eugen Dinsorean
2. Councillor Henry Williams
3. Councillor Alex Donald
4. Councillor Iurie Bivol
5. Councillor Khuram Amin
6. Councillor John Tyler
7. Councillor Lesley Tyler

This list includes councillors representing more than one political group.

I have attached my detailed scrutiny report setting out the evidence and grounds for the call-in.

The principal grounds are:

1. Decision-making authority

Clarification is required from the Monitoring Officer regarding whether the decision-maker possessed the necessary delegated authority, taking account of the complete VAT-inclusive contract value and the relevant constitutional and procurement thresholds.

2. Financial inconsistency

The published decision contains an apparent £100,000 inconsistency between the stated extension subtotal and the annual extension figures. The financial information should be corrected and formally verified before implementation.

3. Supplier identity

Clarification is required regarding the precise legal entity receiving the contract and whether that entity is correctly appointed under the relevant YPO framework lot.

4. Direct award and value for money

The published report does not provide sufficient like-for-like, whole-life cost evidence to demonstrate that the proposed five-year direct award represents the best available value for the Council.

5. Procurement, contractual and governance safeguards

Further evidence is required regarding the direct-award assessment, funding risks, social value, data security, service resilience, contract performance and exit arrangements.

Proposed alternative

Implementation should be paused and the decision referred back for reconsideration following:

- a determination by the Monitoring Officer concerning the decision-maker's authority;
- correction and verification of the financial figures;
- confirmation of the correct contracting supplier;
- publication of an adequate direct-award and value-for-money assessment; and
- confirmation that the necessary procurement, contractual, financial and information-governance safeguards are in place.

This call-in does not seek to terminate an essential education service. Its purpose is to ensure that the proposed award is lawful, financially accurate, properly authorised and supported by sufficient evidence before implementation.

Councillor Petru Eugen Dinsorean