

Chair:  
Councillor Charles Adje

Deputy Chair:  
Councillor Harry Lister

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report covers a matter considered by the Executive at our meeting on 1 November 2005 which required the invocation of the Special Urgency arrangements set out in Section 12 of Part D2 of the Constitution.
- 1.2 It is a requirement of the Constitution (Section 18(e) of Part I4) that when decisions are taken as a matter of urgency they must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

## **ITEM OF REPORT**

### **Children and Young People**

#### **2. CONTRACTS WITH PROSPECTS SERVICES LTD. AND CAREERS ENTERPRISE (FUTURES) LTD TO PROVIDE CONNEXIONS NORTH LONDON SERVICES**

- 2.1 In January 2005 we gave approval for the Council to enter into a consortium agreement with other Connexions North London partner bodies in order to facilitate a more efficient contractual arrangement and use of resources in the running of the Connexions Service in North London. Under the new arrangement Haringey became the contracting body for the Connexions North London Consortium. This allowed Haringey to recoup VAT amounting to £1,200,000 per year which made more funding available for the delivery of Connexions services.
- 2.2 In February 2005 our Procurement Committee approved the transfer to Haringey from Connexions North London Partnership Ltd, a partner in the Consortium, of the service provision arrangements then in place with Prospects and Futures. These arrangements were due to end on 31 March 2005. Under the new Consortium arrangements, the Consortium Board recommended the continuation of service provision by Prospects and Futures for a further year to 31 March 2006 on slightly altered terms. These contracts for £4,200,000 and £1,255,000 respectively had to be placed by Haringey.
- 2.3 The matter became urgent because the placing of the new contracts was delayed because of the need to first have the new Connexions contracting arrangements under the Consortium structure approved by all the Consortium partners particularly the 3 North London Boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Waltham Forest. This process proved to be very time consuming and it was urgent that Haringey placed the contracts so that the VAT might be recouped and the depletion of the funding available for the Connexions service avoided.
- 2.4 We noted that with the consent of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Special Urgency procedure was invoked and the Leader agreed to the waiver of Contract Standing Order 6.4 (Requirement to Tender) as allowed under Contract Standing Order 7 with respect to the award of contracts with the existing providers for Connexions North London services.

- 2.5 We also noted that the Consortium had recommended that after March 2006 the service contracts should be re-tendered. This would be done under the Council's normal committee process and would not require the urgent action required in this situation.