

CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES - 21 SEPTEMBER 2010

APPROVAL FOR COUNTY PRINT FINISHERS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES

Report by Director for Social & Community Services

Introduction

1. County Print Finishers is the County Council's supported business partly funded through the Central Government's Workstep programme and managed by Oxfordshire Employment Service, the Council's specialist employment service for people with disabilities.
2. County Print Finishers employs 33 people of whom 23 have disabilities. As a supported business it is able to trade in the open market and has for many years operated a commercial print finishing service to local printers and organisations. Traditionally trading has been conducted on a job by job basis with customers being provided with quotations and invoices for each one.
3. In recent years, County Print Finishers has added confidential waste shredding, print procurement and reprographic services to the portfolio of services available to customers and as training opportunities for people with disabilities employed.

Outline of development

4. Recently discussions have taken place regarding County Print Finishers providing these services for other local authorities on a contractual basis. To date an agreement has been made to collect and shred the confidential waste from Cherwell District Council's Bodicote offices and discussions are in an advanced phase regarding providing Oxford City Council with print procurement and reprographic services.

Benefits to Oxfordshire County Council

5. There are two major benefits to Oxfordshire County Council:
 - (a) The increased generation of income from trading activities.
 - (b) Increased opportunities for clients and employees with disabilities to train in these activities and by doing so increase their ability to obtain employment outside of the County Council. Their improved personal economic position reduces the need for benefits and other publicly funded services.

Financial and Staff Implications

6. The agreement with Oxford City Council involves the transfer of one member of staff to an already agreed post. There are no other financial or staff implications other than the benefits mentioned above. Legal services will be requested to scrutinise and advise on each contract.

RECOMMENDATION

7. **The Cabinet Member for Adult Services is RECOMMENDED to approve that the Director for Social & Community Services enters into contracts with other organisations and local authorities for County Print Finishers to provide print finish related services to those organisations and local authorities.**

JOHN JACKSON
Director for Social & Community Services

Background papers: Nil

Contact Officer: Barry Parsons, Manager of Oxfordshire Employment Service and County Print finishers Tel: (01865) 791606

September 2010