

 Brent	Officer Key Decision
	Report to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Community Development
AUTHORITY TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF DIVERSION FROM OFFENDING AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Part Exempt – Appendix 1 is exempt as it contains the following category of exempt information as specified in Paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely: ‘Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)’.
List of Appendices:	Two Appendix 1 – Exempt – List of Tenderers Appendix 2 – Evaluation Grid
Background Papers:	Officer Key Decision Authority to Tender – 2 December 2025
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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report concerns the award of a contract for the provision of Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention programme. This report requests authority to award contracts as required by Contract Standing Order 88. This report summarises the process undertaken

in procuring a contract and, following the completion of the evaluation of the bids, recommends to whom the contract should be awarded.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Community Development.

- 2.1 Approves the award of contract for the provision of Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme to Air Sports Network from April 2026 – March 2029 in the sum of £503,400 excluding VAT (with an option to extend for 2+1 years).

3.0 Detail

Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1 The proposal aligns with Brent Council's commitment to:
- (a) Creating a Thriving Community as per strategic priority three under the Brent Borough Plan, with reference to outcome two, "Building a Safer Borough", as it involves working with the Safer Brent Partnership to strengthen our early intervention approach to community safety, agreeing multi-agency interventions to reduce crime, exploitation and all forms of violence against women and girls. It also leads to the commitment of keeping Brent streets safe, by working with Partners to reduce harm to our community, preventing re-offending and bringing prolific offenders to justice. The service will also tackle anti-social behaviour as it involves working with drug and alcohol outreach services, businesses and residents. Additionally, emerging hotspots will be identified resulting in early intervention to help design out crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - (b) The delivery of the programme also aligns with strategic priority four under the Brent Borough Plan, "Providing the Best Start in Life", with reference to improving approaches and support around safeguarding, both in relation to contextual and transitional safeguarding; and enhancing multi-agency collaboration to improve outcomes for victims and prevent future tragedies.

Background

- 3.2 The Council requires the provision of a Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention programme. Council officers have undertaken a procurement exercise and identified a contractor providing the most advantageous offer in accordance with relevant evaluation criteria and

therefore recommend award of a contract for Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention programme (the “Contract”).

- 3.3 The programme provides a comprehensive package of support for individuals at risk of offending or those already involved in the criminal justice system. It includes street-based outreach to identify vulnerable individuals early and specialist mentoring, particularly for young people. The programme also addresses key pathways linked to reoffending by offering help with housing, education, training, employment, and health-related needs, including substance misuse. Flexible working hours and practical assistance, such as escorting service users to probation, health or other essential appointments, ensure that support is accessible and responsive to individual circumstances.
- 3.4 A central feature of the programme is its pre-release work within major London prisons. Dedicated staff build relationships with offenders prior to release, provide mentoring, create action plans, and prepare individuals for community reintegration. This support continues seamlessly from the prison gate for London releases and into the community through outreach mentoring, sports-based activities and personal development interventions. By coordinating closely with Probation and other agencies and offering a consistent worker throughout custody and release, the programme aims to reduce anxiety, strengthen engagement, and promote sustained positive outcomes. In Brent, this includes a sport-focused mentoring model with support extended to those on the Integrated Offender Management Programme.

The Procurement Process

- 3.5 The Contract will be let using the Council’s terms and conditions for the period between April 2026 to March 2029 (with an option to extend for 2+1 years).
- 3.6 Advertisements were placed on the central digital platform on 03/12/2025 to seek initial expressions of interest, which elicited seven initial enquiries. Contractors were provided with an outline specification and details of the tender approach, and were invited to complete additional conditions of participation using the Council’s Electronic Tendering Facility. Seven contractors subsequently completed the conditions of participation.
- 3.7 Shortlisting was carried out on the basis of the contractors’ financial viability, technical ability and conditions of participation, seven contractors had their tenders evaluated and moderated.

- 3.8 The tendering instructions stated that the Contract would be awarded on the basis of the most advantageous offer to the Council and that in evaluating tenders, the Council would have regard to the following:
- Quality/technical: 50%
 - Value for money and price: 40%
 - Social value: 10%
- 3.9 Tenderers were required to submit additional information providing details of their proposed arrangements for performing the Contract including (but not limited to) the following on a pass/fail basis:
- Confirmation that DBS checks are carried out for all staff annually.
 - Confirmation that the provider has provided an early intervention and diversion service or violence reduction service which included mentoring and 1:1 support with vulnerable young people in the last 5 years.
 - A case study regarding the early intervention and diversion service or violence reduction service detailing what this service entailed including delivery and outcomes for service users.

Evaluation process

- 3.10 The tender evaluation was carried out by a panel of officers from the Community Safety and Strategy and Partnerships teams.
- 3.11 All tenders had to be submitted electronically no later than 1pm on 12/01/2026. Tenders were opened on 12/01/2026 and seven valid tenders were received. Each member of the evaluation panel read the tenders and carried out an initial evaluation considering how well each of the award criteria was addressed in each tender.
- 3.12 The panel met between 10/02/2026 – 17/02/2026 and each submission was marked by the whole panel against the award criteria.
- 3.13 The names of the tenderers are contained in Appendix 1. The scores received by the tenderers are included in Appendix 2. It will be noted that Contractor A was the highest scoring tenderer. Officers therefore recommend the award of the Contract to Contractor A, namely AIR Sports Network.
- 3.14 The Contract will commence on 1st April 2026 subject to call in period and the Council's observation of the requirements of an 8 working day standstill period.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The Contextual Safeguarding, Violence Reduction Strategic Group (consisting of key stakeholders) has been consulted on the need to recommission services and areas of priority need.
- 4.2 The former Lead Member for Safer Communities, Jobs and Skills has been briefed on the need to recommission services.
- 4.3 Public consultation on the Safer Brent Strategy 2024 - 2026 also included consideration of commissioned services and understanding those priorities/needs.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 The estimated value of this Contract is £167,800 per annum (exc.,VAT), which totals £503,400 over the initial contract period of 3 years. This is within the value of the contract estimated in the “Authority to Tender” report.
- 5.2 The council have been successful in obtaining grant funding from MOPAC’s London Crime Prevention Fund to deliver services until March 2029. Any potential financial risks are included within the remit of the grant agreement, and none are anticipated for this programme.
- 5.3 Funding for this programme has been successfully secured since 2017. The request for a further extension of the initial contract would be subject to confirmed funding arrangements to cover the period beyond 2029.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 The value of the Contract over its lifetime is in excess of the Procurement Act 2023 (the “PA23”) threshold for Light Touch Services and the award of the Contract is therefore governed by the PA23. Section 3 of the report outlines how the Contract was procured in accordance with the PA23.
- 6.2 The award of the Contract is subject to the Council’s own Standing Orders in respect of Medium Value Contracts. The Corporate Director has delegated power to award Medium Value Contracts in accordance with paragraph 9.5 of Part 3 of the Constitution.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 Pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010 (the “Public Sector Equality Duty”), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

7.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

7.3 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

7.4 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary.

7.5 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications.

7.6 The proposal in this report is directed to help vulnerable people in the borough and it has been subject to screening (EIA completed for the "Authority to Tender" report).

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 There are no climate change and environmental considerations specifically linked to this programme.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor and there are no direct implications for Council staff arising from retendering the contract, but the Council will obtain anonymised employee liability information from the current provider which will be provided as part of the procurement process.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 This is a high risk and referral only programme using specified referral

pathways and therefore public communication campaigns will not be relevant to supporting its delivery.

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director Children, Young
People & Community Development