

Case Study: Education Leeds

Education Leeds BSF programme set for success with Procurement Consultancy and ICT advice from PTS Consulting

The Client



Education Leeds is a not-for-profit company, formed in April 2001 and wholly owned by the second largest authority in the UK, Leeds City Council. In 2005, Education Leeds kicked off a £250 million project under the Government's 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF) programme to rebuild and transform a total of 14 secondary schools in the Leeds area. The first BSF schools opened in September 2008 and the wave is expected to be complete by 2010.



The Business Challenge

With the project having very public deadlines to work to, the Education Leeds BSF project team required strict adherence to standard documentation and had to run under the procurement framework as specified by the DCFS. PTS Consulting assisted Education Leeds in the procurement of an ICT partner within the BSF programme and to offer independent technical advice, guidance and project management assistance.

The Solution

Technical ICT Consultancy:

The first part of the project required the specification of the managed service and technical architecture. PTS Consulting conducted an independent review of the standard PfS documentation. PTS Consulting also put together a series of strategic recommendations that would enable integration of the passive infrastructure into the ICT environment. Prior to the appointment of a managed service provider, PTS Consulting provided Education Leeds with interim project management to ensure that the ICT design was tightly integrated into the building plans from the outset.



In order to assist Education Leeds to undertake an European Union (EU) compliant procurement, PTS Consulting worked alongside the Education Leeds project team to review the supplier evaluation criteria, and formulate a strategy and timetable for moving ahead with the procurement via the EU Competitive Dialogue process. The next stage of the procurement involved refinement of an output-based tender specification. This needed to be based on the BSF standard documentation and also to reflect the operational requirements of the schools. This tender documentation was then issued to the market for suppliers to provide responses against.

With the Education Leeds team, PTS Consulting handled supplier queries and independently evaluated the responses to the tender against defined evaluation criteria. Due diligence and reference checks were then undertaken. Throughout this process, the client's requirements were further refined via a comprehensive EU-compliant Competitive Dialogue environment, managed by PTS Consulting. This enabled the suppliers to fully understand the client's requirements and for contracts to be developed in line with the client's needs. Once final tenders were submitted, PTS Consulting was then able to make a fully independent recommendation on the supplier contract that would best meet the project objectives, budget and timescales.



A significant role for PTS Consulting was the management of the interaction between all different members of the professional project team. PTS Consulting's recommendations also incorporated the integration of a payment mechanism in order to pay the professional team as well as the specialist staff in Education Leeds and Leeds PPPU. In addition, PTS Consulting helped complete the final business case to submit to the DCFS to secure the funding for the project.

The Verdict

With PTS Consulting's help, Education Leeds developed a clear strategic business case to work to. With this, it was then able to select an outsourced ICT service that would support its BSF education objectives and enable its future schools to embrace change management to nurture an enhanced educational experience.

PTS Consulting was able to provide all the necessary ICT advice, technical guidance and extra capacity that Education Leeds needed to ensure the momentum and success of its BSF project.



Robert Langley, Head of Information Management at Education Leeds commented:

“PTS Consulting supported Education Leeds by delivering expert technical advice during the procurement of a strategic partner to meet the ICT requirements for our Building Schools for the Future programme. PTS Consulting advised us throughout the tender process and then provided interim project management support to help guide us through to project implementation. PTS Consulting also delivered valuable practical advice surrounding the ICT infrastructure within the buildings themselves. Education Leeds was extremely pleased with the high quality support that we received throughout our Building Schools for the Future project. Everything that was promised to us has been delivered on time and the PTS Consultants fitted into our team extremely well. In all, the quality of the PTS people and the deliverables made it a great partnership.”