

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION NOTICE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 SECTION 9E

1 EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Cllr James Broach – Executive Member for Governance

2 TITLE OF REPORT

Award of contract for Network Infrastructure services

3 DECISION TAKEN

To award a two-year contract, with an optional one year extension to Total Computer Networks Limited commencing on 1st December 2023.

4 IF URGENT, REASONS FOR URGENCY

Not urgent.

5 DETAILS OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Name Cllr James Broach

Signature James Broach

Date this decision was taken 21/9/23

Date of circulation/publication of this decision 28/09/23

6 EXPLANATION/BACKGROUND:

- 6.1 The current contract for Network Infrastructure Services expires on 30th November 2023. The requirements of the contract are to provide a support service, monitor and respond to incidents and faults for all wide and local area networks, in accordance with agreed timescales. Additionally evaluate the Council's network, as necessary, and recommend to the Council any modifications or improvements which may be required from time to time in order to maintain agreed service levels.

- 6.2 The Council had previously worked with SOCITM's (Society for Innovation Technology and Modernisation) Consulting Services as part of strategic review of the Council's IT function to specify requirements for a resilient Network Support partners. These go beyond the basic provision required from the Council's supplier to include more proactive monitoring and responsive service, reducing risk of downtime in critical services.
- 6.3 As a new contract is required, a mini competition took place using the NHS Direct Workplace Solutions framework.
- 6.4 Whilst there are 28 companies on the framework, only one bid was received (from Total Network Solutions Limited).
- 6.5 This bid was fully evaluated for compliance and was considered to meet all the minimum criteria and requirements of the Council. The costs of the bid are included in Appendix 1.

6.6 Legal Implications:

The use of the NHS Direct Workplace Solutions framework is compliant with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

6.7 Financial Implications:

The total cost of the contract across two years is £133,988.98. There is a one-off transitional cost of £1650 and an annual cost of £66,994.49 covering both support and licensing. The cost of the contract will be met from the existing service budget.

6.8 Risk Implications:

- The procurement risk is considered to be very low as the use of the framework is compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations and all framework suppliers were given the opportunity to submit a bid.
- Interruption to network support arrangements would leave the Council vulnerable to major outages of critical IT services.

6.9 Alternative options considered and reasons for their rejection (if any):

The contract with the existing supplier was no longer compliant and in line with recommendations from SOCITM was no longer fit for purpose. It was not possible for the Council to stay with the existing supplier (who did not tender for this contract).

The function operated under the contract was not suitable for in-house execution. It includes the provision of mandatory licences for network hardware, which can only be sourced via a re-seller (such as Total Computer Network Solutions). The skills and capacity required to provide support for network infrastructure are not available within the in-house team and at present it would not be financially viable to introduce them.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS USED TO INFORM THE DECISION

7.1 Appendix 1 – Financial Implications

8 DETAILS OF ANY MEMBERS OR OFFICERS WHO HAVE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND NATURE OF ANY SUCH INTEREST AND ANY DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

8.1 None

9 ADDITIONAL CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION CONSIDERED

9.1 Appendix 1 – Financial Implications

Contact Officer: Ben Trueman – Assistant Director (ICT and Digital Services)
b.trueman@welhat.gov.uk / 01707 357195