

Committee: Chief Officer Key Decision

Date: 8 February 2018

Wards: All

Subject: Local Area Network and Wireless Infrastructure: Contract Award Report

Lead officer: Mark Humphries - Assistant Director Infrastructure and Transactions.

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison.

Contact officer: Richard Warren – Head of IT Service Delivery

Recommendations:

Award the contract for supply and commissioning for the new Local Area Network and Wireless Infrastructure to Company B.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current infrastructure has been in use for seven years and will start to become end of life throughout 2018 and 2019. With a strategic decision to streamline the number of different manufactures we have undertaken a procurement process to select a supplier.

This report seeks approval to award a contract for the replacement of the Local Area Network and Wireless infrastructure to Company B.

2 DETAILS

During the last 5 to 7 years, there has been an organic growth in the Councils internal networking architecture, which has now become extremely complex and very difficult to support and maintain effectively.

In July 2016 the Council experienced a major switch outage that resulted in a widespread loss of services, and following a detailed investigation, the use of multiple network protocols across a number of different switch manufactures was identified as being one of the key contributory factors.

On that basis, a decision was made to standardise our specifications for the purchase of any new or replacement equipment to a single manufacturer, and simplify the Local Area Network (LAN) and Wireless architecture in order to improve reliability and speed up the process for identifying faults and completing repairs.

The current network architecture has been operational for over 7 years, and there are a number of devices and other items of equipment that will be going end of support during 2018 and 2019. This provides an opportunity to implement the new strategy and replace existing equipment as part of the agreed capital programme.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS

Prior to undertaking any procurement, a soft market test exercise was completed to assess the technical performance and merits of the two equipment manufacturers (Cisco and Extreme) that are currently utilised on the Councils network infrastructure.

The specification for the market testing was based on a high level architectural design which was created in consultation with an external specialist consultancy (Assured Networks) who currently provide the Councils network support contract.

Both of the manufacturers provided prices based on the technical requirements provided and following a detailed technical evaluation a decision was made to specify Cisco as the Councils preferred equipment manufacturer.

Using information collected as part of the soft market testing exercise, a list of equipment was drawn up together with a detailed specification of works for the implementation of the new services.

An ITT was issued via the CCS RM3733 framework to 29 suppliers, and an engagement day organised in order to provide bidders with an opportunity to ask questions that they might have in relation to the procurement process.

TENDERS RECEIVED

Two submissions to the invitation to tender were received in line with the stipulated timeframe.

EVALUATION OF TENDERS

Tender responses were evaluated by officers, the evaluation criteria was split 100% price.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

We could carry on with the existing infrastructure but we might only have a short life span before the equipment starts to fail and with devices coming out of support they will need to be replaced. This is not a recommended alternative.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

We consulted Extreme and Cisco as part of the network design and were advised by Assured Networks in the writing of the ITT.

5 TIMETABLE

It is anticipated that the upgrading project will take between 18 and 24 months to complete, and that the works will be programmed in such a way as to minimum disruption to the Councils normal day to day operations.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

The capital programme has a provision to cover the cost of undertaking the necessary works with funding having already being allocated in the following years as part of the IT planned equipment replacement programme of works :-

2017/18 - £400K

2018/19 - £225K

2019/20 - £150K

Total funding available within existing capital programme £775K

The resources required to install and commission the works will be provided using a mixture of Assured Networks, a third party service provider who is yet to be appointed (subject to another procurement exercise) and some internal resources, the cost of which will all be met from existing financial resources.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The ITT was issued via CCS RM3733 framework under the standard terms and conditions.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications for this procurement.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications for this procurement.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

By reducing the complexity of the design of the network will reduce the risk of failure going forward

11 CONFIDENTIAL APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE NOT TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT BUT FORM PART OF THE REPORT.

A. Organisation to whom it is recommended to award the contract.

12 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

None for this report

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None for this report

