

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
IMPROVEMENT****Update on Wide Area Network Tender****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee on the current position with the procurement of a Wide Area Network (WAN) provider.

Information

2. At the meeting of the Finance and Major Contracts Committee on the 14th October 2019 and updated at the meeting of 18th November 2019, a report was presented by the Group Manager for Procurement updating Members on the procurement of a new WAN. This report provides the same information to Members of the Improvement and Change Sub Committee, updated to include the preferred bidder for the contract framework and the next steps to be undertaken.
3. The Council currently have a contract with VirginMedia Business for our WAN that has been in place since November 2014 and expires November 2020.
4. Working with ICT Services Corporate Procurement have done several market engagement days to discuss where the Council is now, where they will be in the future, and what is available in the market.
5. As part of that market engagement it became clear that whilst new network technology is emerging it is still in it's infancy and therefore a decision was made to go out for a network that met our needs now but with the flexibility to move to any new technology during the lifetime of the contract.
6. On the 14th June 2019 an invitation to tender was published inviting suppliers to bid for the provision of a managed service for WAN with a submission deadline of 5th August 2019.
7. Suppliers are bidding to be sole supplier on a framework agreement that meets current requirements and has a catalogue of services for the future. Framework agreements are the overarching contracts that allow multiple call off contracts with varying designs to be made against them, often from multiple organisations.
8. The tender has now been awarded and MLL Telecom have been informed they are the preferred supplier.

9. MLL Telecom have been providing public sector networks for the last 25 years and are accredited to provide both to Local Authorities and the Health Service. Their customers include, West Midlands combined authority, Suffolk County Council and Nottinghamshire Police.
10. The current suppliers of the WAN – Virgin Media Business – did not bid for the new contract and as such, there will be transition costs for the installation of new infrastructure. Work with the preferred bidder on the detailed design of the call off contract will now commence and this will enable detailed costs to be provided.
11. Initial high level design proposals have indicated that the transition costs will be in the region of £2.5M. In line with financial regulations, a capital bid request has been submitted for consideration to the Corporate Asset Management Group. If successful, a variation to the capital programme request will be submitted for approval as a part of the 2020/21 annual budget report to full Council.

Benefits

12. Other public sector bodies in the East Midlands region will be able to call off from the framework which could aid more joined up working.
13. The framework allows us to do a second call off during its life time of 4 years. A call off contract can be for 5 years with an option to extend for a further five years. This is a longer contract that has been allowed using other buying consortiums frameworks.
14. The framework includes a rate card to enable moves to new technology without incurring the costs of going back out to tender.

Other Options Considered

15. The option of going through an existing government framework was considered but not used as the framework was about to end and we would not have had the flexibility that has been written into our own framework.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. Report is for information only

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

18. As noted in the report, there will be transition costs associated with the installation of the new network. These will be detailed once the detailed design work has been completed with MLL.

RECOMMENDATION/S

19. That members agree to receive a follow up/update report in the next 3 months and that this be included in the work programme

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (EP 14/11/19)

20. The Improvement and Change Sub-Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (GB 13/11/19)

21. In line with financial regulations, a capital bid request has been submitted for consideration to the Corporate Asset Management Group. If successful, a variation to the capital programme request will be submitted for approval as a part of the 2020/21 Annual Budget Report to Full Council.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All