

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
IMPROVEMENT**

UPDATE ON WIDE AREA NETWORK DEPLOYMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Committee on the current position with the programme of work to migrate from the existing Wide Area Network (WAN) provider Virgin Media Business to the new supplier MLL Telecomms Ltd.

Information

2. At the meeting of the Finance and Major Contracts Management 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 Wide Area Network (WAN).
3. As part of that market engagement it became clear that whilst new network technology is emerging it is still in its 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.
4. 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.
5. The tender was awarded to MLL Telecom. 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.
6. The current suppliers of the existing 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 MLL has progressed well on the detailed design and the majority of the transfer costs are now known.
7. After the contract with MLL Telecomms was signed in January 2020 the planning, design, ordering of circuits and remote site surveys have been progressing.

Establishment of new WAN

8. The establishment of a new WAN by the new provider MLL telecoms falls into five key categories:
 - a. The build and connectivity of eight exchanges around the County that remote office sites will connect to.
 - b. The installation of key infrastructure circuits from the core exchanges to our two data centres at Node 4 (in Derby) and County Hall.
 - c. A review of all 210 NCC remote office sites to ensure key infrastructure is available for the new circuit (ie that the communications cabinet has enough power, space, room etc). And to conduct remediation work where necessary to ensure the required infrastructure is available.
 - d. The installation of a circuit at each remote office site that connects to the new exchanges and the new WAN.
 - e. Following the completion of all the above the migration for each individual remote office site from the old WAN to the new WAN provided by MLL telecoms.

Progress

9. The build of the eight exchanges around the County, required for the core of the network, took place over the summer months and was signed off as completed in October.
10. The installation of the key infrastructure circuits are currently taking place and are due for completion by the middle of December 2020. This process has been significantly delayed due to the Covid 19 pandemic due to circuit supplier's priority being re directed to on going support of Health sites.
11. Testing of the key infrastructure will take place throughout December with the aim for this work to be signed off by the supplier before the Christmas break.
12. The review of all 210 remote office sites was completed throughout the summer. 130 sites were identified as requiring further work and this was all completed in November.
13. In the new year 12 sites will be migrated to the new WAN provider. Following on from this plans are now being developed for the migration of all the remaining sites to the new WAN provider. This will take place from mid January 2021 through to the end of March 2021.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. Report is for information only

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That members agree to receive a further update report in the next 6 months and that this be included in the work programme

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Constitutional Comments (GR 18/12/20)

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

Financial Comments (GB 16/12/20)

17. The costs associated with the Wide Area Network redeployment will be funded from the £2.5m budget that is already approved within the Policy Committee capital programme.

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