

Nottingham City Council

Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom on 12 January 2021 from 10.00 am - 10.17 am

Membership

Present

Councillor Sam Webster (Chair)
Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Vice Chair)
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark
Councillor Sally Longford
Councillor Adele Williams (item 31)

Absent

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Steven Brookes | - Infrastructure Planning Manager |
| Pete Mitchell | - Head of Regulation |
| Steve Oakley | - Acting Director of Commissioning and Procurement |
| Simon Salmon | - Head of IT |
| Ceri Walters | - Head of Commercial Finance |
| Phil Wye | - Governance Officer |

Call-in

Unless stated otherwise, all decisions are subject to call-in. The last date for call-in is 20 January 2021. Decisions cannot be implemented until the working day after this date.

25 Apologies for Absence

None.

26 Declarations of Interests

None.

27 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

28 IT Equipment Programme

Simon Salmon, Head of IT, requested that this item be deferred to a future meeting in order to review requirements and budget considerations.

29 Statutory Regulatory Services Digital Platform Investment - Key

Decision

This report was approved in writing by the Chief Executive prior to the meeting as required by the Council's Constitution for all capital expenditure.

Pete Mitchell, Head of Regulation, introduced the report on tendering for a replacement for Civica's Authority Public Protection (APP 'Flare') system which has been in operation within Nottingham City Council (NCC) since 2006. Civica UK Ltd, Flare's supplier announced the system will become unsupported from September 2022 and NCC's supply contract ends at the same time. NCC cannot adequately or efficiently respond to its statutory requirements without having a digital solution in place and so it is recommended that a replacement is tendered.

The replacement system will be more efficient and suitable for mobile working, as well as being more compatible with other Council IT systems.

Resolved to

- (1) delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Community Protection to enter into a 5year (+2year option) contract through an approved Crown Commercial Services framework with the supplier offering best value;**
- (2) approve the expenditure detailed in the exempt appendix to the report.**

Reasons for recommendations:

- To ensure that the Council can adequately continue to deliver its statutory functions in relation to Community Protection from September 2022.
- To comply with Financial Regulations relating to testing the market to demonstrate best value for money is being obtained.
- To ensure business continuity for Community Protection and Nottingham City Council with a new supplier contract in place before the existing contract and solution expires.
- To provide adequate time and resources to replace the existing solution in a seamless and cost effectively way. Note: The replacement solution will require an estimated 18 months to install, set up, configure, and migrate to the new system.
- To maintain colleague engagement, focus and buy-in to the project. The project started in October 2019 by defining problems, opportunities and requirements. A considerable engagement exercise has considered all market options and has clear recommendations.
- To reduce the organisational and community risk of not being able to operate adequate, effective and efficient services as a result of any period of time having to use an unsupported solution.

- To pro-actively plan and build services for a post crisis organisation considering changes to regulations and legislation as a result of external treats, Covid-19 and Brexit, and internal treats, budget pressures and changing city environment.

Other options considered in making recommendations:

- Do Nothing. Allow APP Flare to fall out of support, but continue usage. This is not recommended:
 - This would put NCC at a very high risk; if the system failed, or Central Government changed the legislative framework, NCC would be on its own to resolve this.
 - NCC would still have to pay Civica for the intellectual property right to use the unsupported software.
 - The system would become increasingly insecure as it would not be kept up to date with any technical security changes or updates in the computer server or network environment. Citizen, Business and NCC data would therefore be at an increasing risk, especially of data protection breaches, which can result in significant financial penalties under the UK Data Protection Act 2018.
- Develop then implement an in-house solution:
 - This was rejected as IT Services do not have the requisite resources or time to develop, then maintain such a system.
 - The cost and effort to develop such as solution would out-strip the cost of a product built for market, which is already available and in use within the sector.

30 Exclusion of the Public

The Committee decided to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration the remaining agenda item in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

31 Statutory Regulatory Services Digital Platform Investment - Key Decision - Exempt Appendix

Resolved to note the information contained in the exempt appendix.