

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4233

Author:

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Department:

Strategy and Resources

Contact:

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Subject:

IT Security Suite renewal

Total Value:

£350,000 (Type: Capital and Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1. To renew essential existing IT security products - Anti-virus/Malware protection application, Application Delivery Controllers (ADC), and Web Traffic Filtering and Reporting application - with contracts for a three year term with a one year extension option if available. 3 procurements will be made through frameworks such as CCS or GCloud

2. To delegate the decision to award the contracts to the successful tenderers to The Head of IT

Reasons for the Decision(s)

An anti-virus/malware solution provides the main protection from electronic threats and vulnerabilities such as computer viruses and malware. Web traffic filtering provides advanced threat protection from malicious websites, and allows the control of website access so we can block unfavourable sites such as gambling, pay day loan sites and similar. It also needs to provide full auditing and reporting so any abuse or mis-use of corporate systems can provide reports for HR or Police investigations. Application Delivery Controllers provide layer 3-7 web services, and are used by the Council for public DNS management and the provision of webtops, such as the Flexible Working Portal. These three solutions form the basis of the cyber security protection relied upon by the Council and its partners.

These products are essential and form part of the critical toolset that ensures the Council remains as safe as it possibly can. A lack of such protection could result in reputational impact, loss of productivity and financial penalties far in excess of the financial investment requested to implement such systems. Security attacks, vulnerabilities and associated risks have become more prevalent and advanced in recent years. In the past twelve months, both Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, and Hackney Council have suffered high profile attacks, causing major disruption, with each estimated to have costs in excess of £10 million.

Functional requirement specifications for tenders would be based on existing Council systems, and would utilise existing procurement frameworks used by the Council. Funding is already allocated within the IT Efficiency Fund (ITEF) for this procurement.

Other Options Considered:

Option 1 - Do nothing (REJECTED) - If we do not have these security products then the Council will not be sufficiently protected against attacks. Compliancy for Government Connect (GCSX), Public Services Network (PSN) and Cyber Essentials Plus would also be lost.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this delegated decision

Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: An EIA is not required because this report does not contain proposals for new or changed policies, services or functions
Social Value Considerations:	There are no social value considerations associated with this delegated decision
Any implications affecting IT:	Yes
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	10/06/2021
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, IT
Legal Advice:	This delegated decision raises no significant legal issues. The IT products and associated services will be procured through the relevant CCS framework agreement in compliance with public procurement regulations and the Council's contract procedure rules. The contract terms and conditions will be those set out in the relevant framework agreement for a call off through the framework. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 13/04/2021.
Finance Advice:	<p>This decision seeks approval to procure essential IT security products via contract frameworks. Without these products, NCC would be exposed to a number of risks, including significant and costly financial impacts should IT systems be breached. Due to this risk and the potential impacts, these contracts are deemed critical and essential.</p> <p>The value of the 3 contracts to be procured and awarded is expected to be in the region of £0.350m. This will be funded in full from the IT Efficiency Fund (ITEF) and the profiling of these costs have been considered in the ITEF forward plan. It is to be noted however that there are further IT projects within the ITEF forward plan that are yet to be approved. The current balance of the ITEF funding is insufficient to fund all of these projects from 2022/23 onwards therefore careful consideration and planning when prioritising projects is critical in order to only spend within the agreed ITEF allocated budget whilst at the same time meeting corporate IT needs. No financial pressure or overspend can occur. As mentioned, these security projects are deemed essential and critical.</p> <p>Whilst this decision seeks approval spend up to £0.350m, the actual value and contracts entered will be subject to the framework values. The IT service should make every attempt to spend below this amount, ensuring only the minimum is purchased and contracts are only entered for minimum amounts in order to reduce future liabilities and financial risk to NCC, considering the constrained financial environment NCC is operating in.</p> <p>Advice provided by Philip Gretton (Finance Analyst) on 07/05/2021.</p>

IT Advice: The IT Service supports this delegated decision. The software and services described within the report are essential to maintain a healthy security posture for the Nottingham City Council and are also congruent with audit findings and recommendations. Simon Salmon Head of IT

Procurement Advice: This delegated decision raises no specific procurement concerns and Procurement Team will work with the relevant Project Lead to ensure a compliant procurement process is followed and a contract is set up in time to ensure there will be no threat to the Authority. Advice provided by Louise Dobson (Lead Procurement Officer)27 April 2021). Advice provided by Louise Dobson (Business Support) on 27/04/2021.

Signatures

Sam Webster (PH Finance and Resources)
SIGNED and Dated: 03/06/2021
Clive Heaphy (Chief Finance Officer/CD for Finance & Resources)
SIGNED and Dated: 23/05/2021