

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

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| Reference Number: | 2368 |
| Author: | Paul J. Burrows |
| Department: | Resources |
| Contact: | Paul J. Burrows (Job Title: Strategy Manager, Email: paul.burrows@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158763153) |
| Subject: | Public access Wi-Fi |
| Total Value: | 135,000 (Type: Revenue) |
| Decision Being Taken: | <p>Procurement of services to continue to provide public access Wi-Fi at Nottingham City Council sites. Support for the Public Access Wi-Fi project will be made from existing funds.</p> <p>Contract is for 2 (+1 optional) years with on-going costs split between the IT Revenue (£ 30,000) and IT Efficiency Fund (£ 105,000).</p> <p>To delegate the authority to the Corporate Director for Resilience to sign and award the contract.</p> |
| Reasons for the Decision(s) | <p>Public access Wi-Fi provides a service to citizens that enables them to electronically access services using devices such as smart 'phones, tablets and lap-top computers. By providing this service the Council is enabling access to electronic services from its sites that can provide social and economic benefits to citizens. Electronic service delivery also provides more flexible access to service users at a lower cost and is congruent with the Council ICT Strategy and the aspirations of the Customer Services Programme.</p> <p>The Council has provided limited Wi-Fi access at some key sites using a major commercial supplier. This service has proved to be highly popular. The Council now wishes to extend this service to a greater number of sites on a more standardised basis. This will incur a higher cost than the service has to date and so formal approval for the acquisition of the service is sought. The arrangement will allow flexibility in the sites served allowing variation should new sites be commissioned or existing sites be decommissioned. The arrangement will also allow Nottingham City Homes to buy into the same service.</p> |

Other Options Considered: Do nothing. On expiry of the current contract the Council could end public access to Wi-Fi. This would reduce services which are widely expected in the present day and would hamper the take-up of digital services.
Develop and provide public access to Wi-Fi in house. The Council could develop its own public access Wi-Fi service. This is not considered feasible because of the difficulty in complying with the legal framework that it would entail, e.g. the requirements of the Digital Economy Act (2010). Given that there is a real market available to provide this service from a range of providers the case for assuming an in house service would be competitive would require significant justification.

Background Papers: None.

Published Works: None.

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None.

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: There are no Crime and Disorder Implications.

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: No EIA is required, the proposal has no adverse impact on groups that may be subject to discrimination. The service proposed replaces and allows extension to the current free wi-fi in Council buildings and will have no new positive or adverse impacts on citizens or colleagues. The wi-fi service is indiscriminate infrastructure provision. Users of the service are enabled by the device that they use and the systems that the wi-fi enables them to connect to.

Social Value Considerations: There are no Social Value Considerations.

Major Implications for IT: Yes

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 15/03/2016

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement, IT

Legal Advice: This report raises no significant legal issues. A full and proper tendering exercise will be undertaken supported by the Council's Procurement Team. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 30/11/2015.

Finance Advice: The value of the decision (£135,000) is based on the estimated set-up and rental cost of services to provide public access Wi-Fi at Nottingham City Council sites. Set-up costs, estimated at £15,000 in total, will be treated as revenue expenditure for reasons of materiality and because the mix of components doesn't constitute a discrete capital asset. On-going maintenance costs estimated £40,000 per annum will be incurred over a period of three years.

The IT Revenue budget as incorporated within the Medium Term Financial Plan has provision to contribute £10,000 per annum towards the total cost of on-going maintenance. Maintenance costs of up to £30,000 per annum and the initial set-up costs of £15,000 will be met from the IT Efficiency Fund (ITEF) following the approval of a bid for funding. It should be noted that financial comments offered in support of the ITEF bid recommended that "ongoing rental costs be forecast to be met from the base IT revenue budget to any extent that underspends are forecast to be achieved elsewhere in the revenue budget during any of the 3 financial years in which the rental commitment applies". This recommendation is consistent with principles set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy pertaining to use of reserves (including the ITEF). This means that the ITEF will be used only if underspends are not available elsewhere in the IT Revenue budget. Note also that any extension of the rental commitment beyond 3 years be a pressure within the IT Revenue budget.

Value for money will be achieved via a tendering process in accordance with Financial Regulations and, more broadly, by maintaining and expanding access to electronic services to citizens consistent with the aspirations of the Customer Services Programme.

Advice provided by C I Sharpe (Finance Analyst) on 05/02/2016.

Procurement Advice: The Procurement Team will support the tendering exercise and ensure that a fully compliant value for money contract is entered into. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Category Manager) on 25/11/2015.

IT Advice: The IT service supports this proposal as this will give the public greater access to the internet via the wifi at the Council's sites. Further access to the internet will facilitate communications between the Council and its citizens.

Advice provided by Winston Smillie (Supplies and Contracts Manager) on 19/11/2015.

Signatures

Graham Chapman (PH for Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration)
 SIGNED and Dated: 08/03/2016
 Glen O'Connell (Corporate Director for Resilience)
 SIGNED and Dated: 24/02/2016