

Report to Cabinet

27th April 2017

By the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets

DECISION REQUIRED



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Exempt Appendix 1 under paragraph 3 Part 1 of
Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Notice of general exception to Regulation 9 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Regulation 9 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that it was impracticable to give 28 days' notice of the intention to take a Key Decision by the Cabinet on 27 April 2017. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been informed of this matter in accordance with Regulation 10.

Census ICT Cloud Managed Service Provider – Preferred Supplier

Executive Summary

In December 2016, the Census ICT Partnership Joint Committee agreed a new strategy for the Partnership which would see local data centres transferred into the cloud, which would provide a number of benefits to the delivery of IT for all the members councils.

A key part of the support of this new environment is the procurement of a 'managed service provider' to provide the following support:

- Design of the new cloud hosting environment
- Transition of applications and data into the new environment
- Support of the new environment once in production

The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to approve the preferred bidder for the supply of the managed service as the contract award is over £250,000 in total, and the Census ICT budget is held and managed by Horsham District Council.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended:

- i) To accept the bid and award the contract to Company A (exempt Appendix 1) as the preferred supplier of the managed service for the Census Cloud hosting environment

Reasons for Recommendations

- i) To progress the agreed Census ICT strategy and move to the cloud, a managed service provider is required.

Background Papers

Census Joint Committee minutes, 16th December 2016.

Wards affected: All

Contact:

- Jane Eaton, Director of Corporate Resources

Background Information

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Census ICT Partnership is transitioning to a cloud based model, away from locally hosted data centres. This new strategy was adopted at the Joint Committee in December 2016.
- 1.2 To ensure the member Councils have access to the right knowledge and experience to maintain the new cloud hosting environment effectively, the support of a managed service provider (MSP) is required.
- 1.3 Adur & Worthing Councils led on a procurement exercise, with the full involvement of officers from Mid Sussex District Council and Horsham District Council, to identify a supplier for the MSP service.

2 Relevant Council policy

- 2.1 This decision supports the Census ICT Partnership strategy to move to the cloud, adopted at Joint Committee in December 2016.

3 Details

- 3.1 To enable the member Councils of the Census ICT Partnership to transition to the cloud away from on-premise data centres, the support of a knowledgeable and experienced managed service provider (MSP) is needed.
- 3.2 The scope of the work to be delivered by the MSP includes design, migration and support of the partnership's infrastructure hosting in the public cloud that provides resilience, security and meets the organisations' disaster recovery objectives under a set of agreed Service Level Targets.
- 3.3 The selected bidder will be responsible for a robust Cloud design, working with the Councils' local IT teams to ensure that the final hosting environment is fit for purpose. They will also assist with the migration of data and applications to the new environment, and ensuring acceptable levels of performance and reliability are met.
- 3.4 From the procurement exercise undertaken, Company A has emerged as the preferred bidder. This bidder provided the highest scoring responses to the criteria for the tender whilst also demonstrating value for money over the length of the contract.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 Following approval by Cabinet to award the contract, there will be a mandatory legal 10 day "standstill" period as required by the Public Contract Regulations, to allow unsuccessful tenderers time to request feedback and scrutinise the award process. Once this has passed without incident, the appointment can be ratified and legal formalities concluded.

5 Views of the Policy Development Advisory Group and Outcome of Consultations

- 5.1 The report was discussed at the Finance and Assets PDAG on 18th April 2017. Further details were sent to members of the PDAG following the meeting.

6 Other Courses of Action Considered but Rejected

- 6.1 Not procuring a managed service provider would present considerable risk to the cloud transition work as the Census ICT Partnership does not presently have the in house knowledge and experience to run the project.

7 Resource Consequences

- 7.1 All costs for the contract with the managed service provider will be met from the Census ICT Partnership budgets, using monies diverted from projects that are no longer needed under the new strategy. At the Joint Committee of December 2016, an initial £204,250 was set aside for the cloud transition work.

8 Legal Consequences

- 8.1 The procurement process has been carried out in compliance with the Council's procurement code.
- 8.2 This matter is a 'key decision'. This report provides Notice of general exception to Regulation 9 of the Local Authorities (Executive arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny was informed verbally on 7 April 2017 and by receipt of this report, in accordance with Regulation 10.

9 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 The risks relating to this project are being actively managed. A key risk relating to the managed service provider contract is being mitigated by the Councils owning their own accounts with the major cloud hosting providers (e.g. Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure). This means that should we exit the contract with the preferred supplier, the Councils would still have total ownership and access to their systems and data.

10 Other Considerations

- 10.1 Ensuring our IT infrastructure is robust and fit for purpose ensures that Council services can continue to be delivered in a timely and cost effective manner, benefitting all the residents and businesses of the three local authority areas within the partnership.
- 10.2 Cloud computing offers many benefits in terms of sustainability, with the greater scale of large providers able to deliver 'green IT' more effectively than small, in house data centres. There will be a sustainability element in the scoring for the procurement of the new cloud hosting platform to ensure the Councils are meeting their obligations with regard to protecting the environment.