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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	17 March 2005
Subject	**Core Infrastructure Recovery Project**
Report of	Cabinet Member for Performance, Partnerships and Best Value
Summary	This report provides a summary of the final stages for the procurement process of the Core Infrastructure project. It proposes that the Council enter into a contract with a suitably qualified provider to deliver, implement and provide a managed service for the new technology.

Officer Contributors	Mahesh Patel, Infrastructure Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public (with a separate exempt section, to follow)
Wards affected	None
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Cabinet Resources Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

Contact for further information: Mahesh Patel, Infrastructure Manager (020 8359 7053)
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Beacon Council

2002-2003
Improving Urban Green Spaces
Libraries as a Community Resource
2002-2004
Community Cohesion

1   RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1   That the Committee consider awarding this contract in accordance with the tender appraisal that will be reported separately.

2   RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

2.1   ICT Cabinet, 26th June 2003, - Approval of Information Systems Recovery Plan

2.2   ICT Cabinet, 8th November 2004, - Core Infrastructure Project Progress Report

2.3   ICT Cabinet 1st February 2005, - Core Infrastructure Project Progress Report

3   CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1   The project aligns with the objectives of the Corporate Plan. It is particularly significant to the attainment of the priority of delivering 'a better council for a better Barnet' through investment in modern systems.

3.2   The Council's Procurement Strategy aims to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan by enabling the procurement of best value goods and services. The project has been delivered in accordance with that strategy.

4   RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1   A formal risk register is managed as part of this project. In addition to this, as part of the BAFO evaluation process, separate risk registers have been developed for each supplier detailing risk associated with each of the suppliers solution.

4.2   Neither supplier is willing to enter into a Performance Bond. A risk assessment will be carried out by Mahesh Patel (ICT Infrastructure Manager), the Borough Treasurer and the Borough Solicitor in accordance with paragraph 10.3.7.2 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

5   FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1   This project will deliver the installation of a robust network infrastructure and a subsequent 5 year ICT service contract in line with the IS recovery plan.

5.2   The project costs include funding for internal project management and technical support provided by Barnet staff who will be seconded to the project.

5.3   The financial aspects of the project are covered in the Exempt report but are within the amounts provided for in the Council's capital programme.

6   LEGAL ISSUES

6.1   The Contract terms are not yet agreed. The requirement for a Performance Bond is also being assessed. These matters will need to be resolved before a contract can be entered into.

7   CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

7.1   Constitution Part 3, Section 3, Powers of the Cabinet Resources Committee

8   BACKGROUND INFORMATION

8.1   This report provides an update on the first of the Recovery Plan priorities relating to the Council's ICT infrastructure. This Core Infrastructure Recovery project is currently in the final stage of procurement and will recommend a suitable contractor to deliver, implement and provide on-going support of a stable and modern ICT infrastructure.

8.2   Procurement Method
        The cost of the supplies and services that would be required to deliver the Core ICT Infrastructure was estimated to be well in excess of the £150k tendering threshold , which meant that the procurement of the systems had to be conducted under a European Union (EU) compliant tender process and in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

8.2.1   Procurement Progress
        Each stage of the procurement process has been reported to ICT Cabinet. This paper outlines the final stage of the procurement with a recommendation of a supplier.

8.3   Best And Final Offer (BAFO) stage
        Best and final offers were invited from the two short listed suppliers on 16 February following several weeks of negotiations on technical and commercial issues.   BAFOs were submitted to the Council on 24 February.

8.3.1   BAFO Evaluations
        The BAFO submissions were evaluated against the following criteria: -
        • Quality of Technical solution;
        • Supplier's implementation planning and style of engagement;
        • Proposed managed service;
        • Supplier's proposed commercial arrangements and Price;
        • Risk approach and overall integrity of the bid.

8.4   Scoring and evaluation
        The evaluations are now under way and the outcome will be set out in an exempt report that will be circulated separately.

8.5   Project Deliverables
        The deliverables from this project are as follows:-
        • A wide area networking model that is flexible, scalable and cost effective

- All Barnet's offices to have the standardised converged voice and data network solution that has been put into operation at North London Business Park. IP telephones will be installed in all offices.
- Storage Area Networks will be implemented at Barnet House and Hendon Town Hall that will give the ability to share data from any office location in Barnet.
- Flexible network access facilities that will enable officers to work from any office location, remotely from home and 3rd party offices.
- A managed service to support the new infrastructure.

8.6   Benefits of the New Infrastructure
- High-speed reliable access to corporate systems and application servers.
- Ensure the Modernising Core Systems project will operate at maximum performance across the network.
- Allow for additional web facing systems to be implemented, enabling residents to carry out further on-line transactions and thereby meet e-government targets.
- Enable 3rd party networks such as health and the Police to connect securely to Barnet's network.
- The cost of calls between Barnet offices will be reduced to nil.
- Systems will be backed up across the core sites, providing automated off site media storage and thus provisioning disaster recovery for the data on these systems.
- The managed service will provide additional capacity to the organisation to deliver flexible and home working.

9.   LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1   Information Systems Recovery Plan, Cabinet ICT, 26th June 2003

9.2   Core Infrastructure Recovery Project Progress Report, Cabinet ICT, 8th November 2000

BS: SS
BT:MG