



Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	ICT Procurements
Date:	24 January, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance & Resources
Contact Officer:	Paul Gribben, Head of ISB

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek authority to procure 3 key ICT contracts for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICT Hardware and software licenses,• Landline telephony services,• Mobile phones and call charges.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>Framework for ICT Hardware and Software</u> The Government Procurement Services (GPS) - SPRINT II framework comes to an end at the end of March 14. This framework enables all government organisations to avail of pre-negotiated deals on computer hardware and software. The Council, via Digital Services, has used this framework, through SCC (Specialist Computer Centres) over the past 2.5 years to procure commodity IT items including PCs/laptops, software licences, multi-function devices/printers and other devices. Using this framework has allowed us to standardise our PC and printer estate and ensure value for money is achieved. We regularly test the marketplace with both devices and licensing to confirm we are receiving competitive rates.</p>
2.2	<p>Given that the SPRINT II agreement will come to an end in March 14, and as a result of Local Government Reform, regarding equipping of new staff and locations, Digital Services urgently requires a new method of procuring commodity IT equipment and software.</p>

2.3	Under the terms & conditions of the current SPRINT II framework we can put in place an extended agreement before the end of March 14 for us to continue to receive goods/services under SPRINT II terms for a further period of time. We are not mandated to use the extended agreement, having the option to use, or not use, the contract as desired for any volume of items.
2.4	GPS are currently in the process of establishing new frameworks to meet the commodity IT hardware and software requirements of the public sector. These will consolidate existing frameworks and create a clear procurement route for commodity IT requirements replacing the Sprint II framework. Digital Services are currently investigating with our Procurement service the use of these and other GPS procurement methods.
2.5	<p><u>Fixed-line Telephony</u></p> <p>An independent analysis of our call usage and line rental performed by Entel Consulting Group has indicated potential savings of up to £20,000 per year based on current published rates. Digital Services has identified a procurement framework with the Government Procurement Service (GPS) to be used for the tendering exercise.</p>
2.6	<p><u>Mobile phones and call charges</u></p> <p>In February 2012 the Council entered into a corporate contract for Mobile Telephony with Vodafone. This followed a competition within the government's 'Mobile Voice and Data Services' framework. The Vodafone contract offers a fixed rate line rental covering all voice and text usage within the UK. GPS has launched a new framework which may be more competitive than the one we are currently using.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Framework for ICT Hardware and Software</u>
	<p>Current annual spend from the centralised revenue budget for IT Equipment is:</p> <p>PCs/Laptops - £130K MFP printers - £45K</p>
3.2	This will increase in 2014-15 with the requirement to equip additional staff and locations as a result of LGR. The requirement for additional budget to meet these requirements will be handled through our internal LGR governance structures.
3.3	<u>Fixed-line Telephony</u>
	Current annual expenditure for fixed line telephony is approximately £240,000 per year and is met from departmental revenue budgets.
3.4	<u>Mobile phones and call charges</u>
	<p>In the last 12 months ending Dec 13 we have spent approximately:</p> <p>Mobile phone and tablet line rental: £168K Costs for new and upgraded phones and tablet: £38K</p> <p>These costs are met from departmental revenue budgets.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	N/A

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p><u>Framework for ICT Hardware and Software</u> Members are asked to approve the recommendation that the council enters into a contract under the SPRINT II framework for a period of two years while establishing further options around other government procurement methods.</p>
5.2	<p><u>Fixed-line Telephony and Mobile phones</u> Members are asked to approve the recommendation that Digital Services carries out tender exercises using frameworks from the Government Procurement Service to ensure we are receiving the most competitive rates available for fixed line and mobile phone telephony services.</p>

6	Decision Tracking

7	Key to Abbreviations

8	Documents Attached