

Mobile Phone Reprocurement

To: Strategy & Resources Committee

Meeting Date: 20 October 2022

From: Assistant Director of Customer & Digital Services

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: 2022/047

Outcome: This report sets out the background to the procurement and award of a new contract for a period of up to 2+1 years for mobile phones, including phone calls, text messages and data.

The outcome, if agreed, is a contract that provides value for money and meets the mobile telephony needs of the Council over the next few years.

Recommendation: The Strategy and Resources Committee is asked to:

- a) agree the procurement of the mobile phone contract.
- b) agree to delegate the decision to award the contract to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chair & Vice Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee.

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Member contacts:

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1. Background

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire County Council currently has approximately 2750 mobile phones and 4300 4G sim cards deployed to staff and devices across the council; these were purchased and are managed as part of a shared supply contract with several other Councils including West Northamptonshire, North Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes Councils.
- 1.2 This contract with Vodafone is due to end in June 2023 and all available extensions have been taken. The total new contract value is expected to be in the region of £336k per annum and it is expected to realise a saving against the current cost of mobile phone usage.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Mobile telephony and mobile data working has been an important part of remote and flexible working for Council staff and was particularly vital during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 2.2 The current contract has provided value for money for the Council as it was possible to benefit from the economies of scale through the aggregated requirements of several Councils.
- 2.3 However, both the telephony market and the needs of the Council have changed since the contract was signed and it is expected that the replacement will include a variety of enhanced features to increase the visibility of usage and the ability to identify and control abnormal or disproportionate usage across the estate. An example of these controls is what are known as 'ability blocks', this feature means that limits can be set on how much a device or phone can use. These controls will support rationalisation and consolidation across the Council and ensure that mobile telephony continues to be an asset for those that need it whilst providing more controls and greater assurance over usage to reduce costs where possible.
- 2.4 It is also expected that additional features that were not available (or not widely available) when the current contract was signed will also be included as standard, such as Wi-Fi calling and 5G.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 Environment and Sustainability
- 3.2 Health and Care
- 3.3 Places and Communities
- 3.4 Children and Young People
- 3.5 Transport

There are no significant implications for these priorities although having effective, reliable tools for staff to use across the Council is fundamental to our ability to deliver services to our communities.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

This procurement will be done with a combined (aggregated) approach to maximise the savings but contracts will be separate to ensure that they can be managed.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

IT and Digital and CCC procurement are current working closely with other member Councils who are part of the current contract and Crown Commercial Services on choosing the correct route to market.

This is currently believed to be Crown Commercial Services RM3808 Network services as it is the only major framework with two of the markets tier one mobile network suppliers and offers both Marketplace and aggregated procurements

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Neutral

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Neutral

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.

Neutral

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Neutral

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:
Neutral

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.
Neutral

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.
Neutral

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes
Name of Financial Officer: Helen Boutell

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement and Commercial? Yes
Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or Pathfinder Legal? Yes
Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your EqIA Super User?
Not applicable

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?
Yes
Name of Officer: Christine Birchall

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Not applicable

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?
Yes
Name of Officer: Kate Parker

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?
Yes
Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents

5.1 Source documents

None