



## **DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

### **PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

#### **TOPIC – PROCUREMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC SECTOR NETWORK**

#### **PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Scrutiny Panel (individual Ward Members are consulted separately where appropriate). In addition, all Members are notified.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

**If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Committee Administrator by 5.00pm on Tuesday 22 April 2008.**

#### **Contact Officers:**

**Case Officer:** Sheila Davidge, Tel: 01962 848 262, Email: [sdavidge@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:sdavidge@winchester.gov.uk)

#### **Committee Administrator:**

Frances Maloney, Tel: 01962 848 155, Email: [fmaloney@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:fmaloney@winchester.gov.uk)

#### **SUMMARY**

Approval is sought for Winchester City Council to be part of the procurement process for the tender and procurement of the replacement Hampshire Public Sector Network (HPSN). The Network provides a data and voice link between public authorities via a dedicated and secure network. The tender is being carried out in partnership with all HIOW authorities and is being led by Hampshire County Council. This is a major procurement and the Head of IM&T is a member of the Project Board and it is reasonable that Winchester plays a part in this project.

The replacement HPSN is an important link for shared services, home working and enabling improved network links for Local Access Points.

It is proposed that the procurement should be via a tender exercise (complying with European procurement rules) leading to a framework contract being let to a suitable contractor. Individual authorities such as the City Council could then enter an individual contract with the selected supplier under the framework arrangements, to allow the authority to use the Network. The framework contract procurement would be led by Hampshire County Council, and it is proposed that these arrangements would be for a period of ten years.

The projected cost for the procurement is £296,000, the majority of which is being funded by Hampshire County Council, with each other authority paying a proportion of the remaining

amount. The amount for Winchester is £4,000, which will be funded from IM&T revenue budget.

The estimated annual cost of the contract is unknown at the present time; I will provide a further report when costs are known. No provision is made within the IM&T budget for the extra cost but will be essential for Shared Services.

This Decision Notice seeks authority to enter into a partnership agreement with the County Council and the other partner authorities, so that tenders can be invited and assessed, and the framework contract entered into. Once the framework contract is in place, a separate report will be prepared to seek authority for the City Council to enter into an individual contract with the selected provider.

### **PROPOSED DECISION**

1. That the Head of IM&T in consultation with the Head of Legal Services be authorised to sign the partnership agreement for the procurement of the replacement HPSN on behalf of the Council.
2. That a direction be made under Contract procedure Rule 3.3 (a) and (b) approving the procurement arrangements set out in this Decision Notice.

### **REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

There are a number of such contracts for HIOW shared service projects, with the work shared across the different authorities, and it is reasonable that Winchester plays a part in this project. Without the replacement HPSN it will be difficult to achieve shared services. Using a joint procurement approach with other authorities allows the City Council to obtain access to a suitable data sharing network with the benefits of reduced procurement and contract costs.

### **FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

N/A

### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED**

The Portfolio Holder declared a Personal (but not Prejudicial) interest as a Member of Hampshire County Council.

### **DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

N/A

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

£4,000 from IM&T Revenue budget, Head of IM&T time for Board meetings.

**Approved by: (signature)**

**Date of Decision**

**Councillor Freddie Allgood – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources**