



Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority

Record of an Authority decision delegated to an Officer as required under Regulation 7 of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulation 2014

Subject of decision	To procure a replacement corporate gazetteer without inviting competitive tenders, pursuant to paragraph 3.1(g) of the Authority's Contract Standing Orders. The contract will initially be taken out for 3 years, which will then be automatically renewed in 12 month increments unless terminated before.
Officer name	Lee Watson
Job title	Assistant Director/Area Commander -Assets
Date decision taken	To replace the Authorities corporate gazetteer for a more modern single source application, ensuring better integration into the Authorities other systems. Currently we utilise multiple suppliers/gazetteers spanning over several departments 1. Operational Policy; Risk Information & Property Mapping Data (Compass) 2. Performance and Information- Geographical Information; Mapping Software (Esri UK Ltd; ArcGIS) 3. Fire Control- Mobile Data Software (3TC Software Ltd) and Command and Control Communications System (Motorola Solutions UK Ltd) The current corporate gazetteer (Compass) is no longer fit for purpose due to its capabilities, economically and due to new compliance standards. The need to replace will allow the Authority to achieve up to date compliance standards and to support integration to more advanced technologies both planned and in anticipation of future changes. These reasons are also underpinned by the Authorities <u>Digital Strategy 2022</u>. Due to having multiple gazetteers (a geographical directory used in conjunction with a map or atlas) is resulting in numerous data entry errors which is a cause for concern from an operational and reporting perspective. It is imperative to maintain accurate data as detailed records help avoid complication, they help organise address data entry more quickly. In turn further improving the Authority's decision making. By Procuring a replacement corporate gazetteer solution will help keep the data more reliable and fully functional allowing the Authority to stay ahead of the market competition and reducing the staffs ever growing workload. Following a recent tender to replace the Command and Control

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	Communications Systems (C&CS); which is also driving this replacement as we can only take advantage of some of the additional functionality that it can offer through a replacement with up to date equivalents. An example being is the C&C system dictates the new format entry (Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN)) which is the unique identifier for every addressable location across the UK, which the replacement gazetteer is required to have. The identified solution 'Bluelight Gazetteer Management System (GMS) by IDOX has proven integration with our Systems. The system is an off the shelf software solution that meets the Authorities needs below: - • The current system (Compass) has been in place for over 6 years and holds more than 3,000 address data entries for which more than 600 are showing as incorrect entries. The system is business critical helping the Authority to meet our Strategic Objectives and enablers. • Moving to a replacement system with a more modern front-end application would significantly reduce time and cost to implement to ensure that all data is correctly entered. The retendering to implementation would expect to take 6 months. • Any new system would require detailed training to the department users resulting in additional time and money, this will have a large impact on the teams as they deliver and learn a new system alongside their day job. The advantage of the more modern front-end upgrade would be familiarity for the teams reducing the implementation time and cost. • Based on market research alternative systems would charge licencing and maintenance costs which the identified supplier doesn't have. • Stakeholders of the system have been part of the review and decision making.
Reasons for the decision	With limited resources available to the Authority, our planning aims to keep our communities and workforce as safe as possible, while also making sure we spend every penny wisely and deliver value for money Further to these considerations through financial constraints an analysis of the recent market conditions has been conducted; reviewing supplier capabilities and pricing trends has allowed the Authority to make an informed decision to direct appoint IDOX. Factors that contributed in making this informed decision can be summarised as:- • Due to limited interest in appointing a supplier via a national framework; direct awarding allows the Authority to demonstrates value for money • Able to appoint on the Authorities T&CS and not under the Crown Commercial Services RM6259 Vertical Applications

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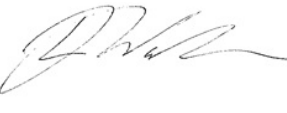
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	Solutions Lot 5 Bluelight Solutions call off terms. • No Framework fees • Reduced timescale by not having to run a procurement process • Pre-procurement assessment completed to ensure quality and capabilities in providing the system • Social Value; there is an obligation to consider social value applies to new contracts (inclusive of direct awards) • The procedure adopted (direct award) is considered to be proportionate to the nature, complexity and cost of the contract • Below Threshold; Procurement Thresholds
Details of decision	The annual cost is estimated to be £10,000 per annum. Furthermore, there is no licensing and no maintenance costs attached to the contract as it's a front-end application or agent to utilises and interprets the address based premium Data required for a corporate gazetteer. The additional functionality of the replacement software will streamline the multiple systems into one user friendly arrangement reducing the risk of manual entries as all the data is accessed through a single set of data which can then be used for multiple systems. It will also see cashable saving in excess of £6,000 over the term of the contract.
Details of alternative options considered and rejected (if any)	To run an open tender process/or further competition via a Framework for a Contractor to supply a corporate gazetteer software. This has been discounted due to its unlikeliness that alternative providers would provide the service for less than the amount we are able to validate, there is no guarantee that the costs would remain as-is due to the time to run a process and the nature of the market, its vulnerability and rising costs. Not undertaking a competitive process increases the risk of not achieving value for money. However, the Authority will publish an award notice in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, which does carry the risk of a supplier challenging the justification for the contract modification. Officers believe this to be low risk and in the event a challenge were made, the early publication of the award does allow the Authority adequate time to reconsider a competitive process. Waiving the Contract Standing Orders for this contract would allow work to progress; reduced disruption to operations whilst a maintain service delivery and expected levels of expenditure. This strategy allows us to preserve the seamless integration with our prevailing hardware and software systems implemented throughout the service, ensuring complete harmony in its entirety. Furthermore, this approach significantly mitigates expenses when compared to the alternative of total replacement, which is not necessary and would involve considerably higher costs.

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Any interests declared by a Member or Officer	N/A
Links to relevant background documents or information	N/A

Signed  Date.....30/09/2024.....

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