



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Subject of decision	To replace outdated components of the Multitone Station End mobilisation equipment (SEE) by ordering up to date equivalents from Multitone to allow us to support modern technologies and to achieve new compliance standards without going to tender, on the basis that the components are only available from one supplier (Multitone); competition is therefore absent for technical reasons and there is no reasonable alternative or substitute available. The direct award of the contract to Multitone via the negotiated procedure is therefore in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 regs. 32(2)(b) and 32(5)(b) (partial replacement of installations where a change of supplier would oblige the Authority to acquire supplies having different technical characteristics).
Officer name	Adrian Elliott
Job title	Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Date decision taken	07/12/2023
Reasons for the decision	HWFRA currently have Station End Equipment (SEE) supplied by Multitone. Some components of this equipment need to be upgraded or replaced to allow us to achieve up to date compliance standards and to support integration to more advanced technologies both planned and in anticipation of future changes. HWFRS have procured a new Computer Aided despatch system (CAD), and we can only take advantage of some of the additional functionality that it can offer through the replacement of these components with up to date equivalents. It is not necessary to replace the SEE in its entirety, since the majority of it is fully functional and future proof, but these particular outdated components will limit its functionality and efficiency. The new CAD system has proven integration to the Multitone SEE so it is also prudent for us to take appropriate measures to update these components with our current SEE supplier which will ensure that it is fully compatible with the new CAD as well as the remaining elements of the SEE, including transmitters, sounders, and other mobilisation technologies that we have distributed throughout our service area.
Details of decision	HWFRA to place an order with Multitone to replace the older components in the SEE with the new ones that are now available.
Details of alternative options considered and rejected (if any)	Although it is feasible to consider alternative hardware solutions, this option would result in a substantial increase in costs. It would necessitate the procurement of an entirely new station end system in all aspects to ensure comprehensive compatibility. This anticipated cost escalation would likely begin at a minimum of £750,000, encompassing the acquisition of all components for a completely new SEE system and their subsequent integrations.

For decisions regarding spend of £100,000 and above

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	Our primary objective is to selectively replace specific elements of the existing Station End Equipment to guarantee its suitability for the intended purpose. This strategy allows us to preserve the seamless integration with our prevailing hardware and software systems implemented throughout our services, ensuring complete harmony with the new CAD system in its entirety. Furthermore, this approach significantly mitigates expenses when compared to the alternative of a total replacement of the Station End Equipment, which is not necessary and would involve considerably higher costs. The cost of the replacement components for the existing SEE is £197,991.20 from Multitone.
Any interests declared by a Member or Officer	None
Links to relevant background documents or information	N/A

Signed.....  Date..... 07/12/2023

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