

Report of Head of Transport Policy

Report to Chief Officer, Highways & Transportation

Date: 15 April 2014

Subject: Waiver Report for C2 Traffic Data Software and Hosting

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The C2 data system developed by Drakewell Computer Systems has been used by the Transport Policy service within Highways and Transportation of the City Development Department for over 10 years. C2 is utilised to process traffic data collected from automatic traffic counters deployed throughout West Yorkshire.
2. The current contract expires 30th April 2014 and there is a requirement to maintain the collection, processing and distribution of traffic data on behalf of internal and external clients across West Yorkshire.

Recommendations

3. The Chief Officer, Highway & Transportation is recommended to approve the waiver of Contract Procedure Rule: 8 Between £10k and £100k Intermediate Value Procurement (Quotations) and
 - i) approve entering into a contract with Drakewell Computer Systems for continuing support of the C2 data system for a period of 4 years and extendable for a further 4 years.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report sets out the rationale for renewing the contract with Drakewell Computer Systems for hosting and distribution of traffic data.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The C2 data system developed by Drakewell Computer Systems has been used by the Transport Policy service within Highways and Transportation of the City Development Department for over 10 years. C2 is utilised to process traffic data collected from automatic traffic counters deployed throughout West Yorkshire. The system records, analyses and stores traffic flow information for various clients. These include:

- LCC Users – C2 is used to produce information for various clients within Leeds City Council. Information is stored on a remote server for access via a web based GIS viewer.
- Bradford, Kirklees, Calderdale and Wakefield Local Authorities – Data has been collected for the former West Yorkshire District authorities as part of the Long Term Traffic Monitoring Programme, since 1979. A service level agreement now exists between Leeds City Council and the other Authorities in relation to Leeds providing a monitoring and information service in relation to traffic survey data collection, processing and reporting. This service level agreement currently generates income for Leeds City Council on an annual basis.
- Central Government – C2 is also utilised to provide traffic volume information to Central Government agencies.
- Consultants – C2 is also used to provide a chargeable service to external consultants who may request information in relation to projects that they are involved with.
- General Public – Requests for information from C2 are also received from members of the general public.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The existing contract with Drakewell Computer Systems end on 30th April 2014.

- 3.2 The C2 application initially utilised a local workstation to download information published to a secure web site hosted by IT Services. The published data is now externally hosted and can be accessed remotely by authorised clients using an application called C2 Web Report, allowing instant access to the data.

3.3 Reason for Contracts Procedure Rules Waiver

- 3.3.1 There has been a significant investment in staff & user training to make the C2 system a success.

3.3.2 The data stored on the system allows efficient monitoring in support of the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) and provides a convenient resource for traffic and highway engineers during scheme development.

3.4 Consequences if the proposed Waiver is not approved

3.4.3 At the time of the original contract procurement there were very few alternative products available. This is still the case and given the investment in knowledge of this specific system by staff and clients, a change of supplier exercise would not represent value for money for any of the authorities that use the system. .

3.4.4 In addition to software changes in implementing a new system, it would also require a large scale data migration which would carry associated costs. There would also be a risk of data loss/formatting errors during the transfer and also an interruption to the service provided

3.4.5 in-house and other West Yorkshire districts (who pay for this data) would not be able to access the system hence consequences for service delivery. We also have external consultants wishing to purchase this data therefore we lose revenue. LCC staff make use of the data for current schemes such as NGT, City Connect, Horsforth, Rodley and Thornbury Barracks pinch point bids for which we receive DfT funding rely on making use of ATC data for scheme assessment. We also supply data as matter of goodwill to students for their degree projects and dissertations.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.6 Consultation has not taken place with elected members.

4.1.7 The service has had a full demonstration of the software by the provider and the existing system has been tried and tested by Leeds Watch colleagues with their recommendation.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening has been prepared and an independent impact assessment is not required for the approvals requested.

4.2.2 The screening process confirmed that the proposals have no impact on any of the equality characteristics.

4.2.3 A copy of the screening report is attached as Appendix A.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 Traffic data underpins decisions made during transport scheme feasibility and design. The data is also used in monitoring the effectiveness of strategies and policies across the districts.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 Annual cost of the license and hosting is £9,800 per annum and is payable from within the Highways and Transportation ICT budget (27804/214/00).
- 4.4.2 The C2 system has been reliable for a number of years and as such the LCC based backup server can be decommissioned providing a reduction in hardware and maintenance costs.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The report is not subject to Call In and there are no grounds for treating the contents of this report as confidential with the Council's Access to Information Rules. The decision is an Administrative Decision.
- 4.5.2 Awarding contracts directly to the contractors in the way proposed could leave the Council open to a potential claim from other contractors to whom this contract could be of interest. In terms of transparency, it should be noted that it is a requirement of European case law that contracts of this value are subjected to a degree of advertising. It is up to the Council to decide what degree of advertising is appropriate. In particular, consideration should be given to the subject-matter of the contract, the estimated value, the specifics of the sector concerned (size and structure of the market, commercial practices, etc.) and the geographical location of the place of performance.
- 4.5.3 In approving this waiver without subjecting the contract to competition, there is a risk of challenge to the Council from other potential providers that have not been given the chance to tender for this opportunity. It is suggested, due to the matters set out at section 3 above, that the risk of challenge is very low in this instance.
- 4.5.4 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the waiver of CPR 8, the above comments should be noted. In making their final decision, the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for money.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 The data hosted on the C2 system is located on a secure server with backup provision.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 LCC should renew the contract with Drakewell Computer Systems for hosting and distribution of traffic data.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Chief Officer, Highway & Transportation is recommended to approve the waiver of Contract Procedure Rule: 8 Between £10k and £100k Intermediate Value Procurement and

- i) approve entering a contract with Drakewell Computer Systems for continuing support of the C2 data system for a period of 4 years and extendable for a further 4 years.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.