Report of: Smart Cities Lead

Report to: Chief Information Officer

Date: 30th March 2016

Subject: **Report to seek approval to waiver contract procedure rules 8.1 and award a contract to Data Press Ltd to host the open data platform (The Data Mill) and support the Leeds version of this platform (The Leeds Data Mill).**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If 'yes', name(s) of ward(s):	☐ Yes	☒ No
Are there implications for equality and diversity or cohesion and integration?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If 'yes', access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	☐ Yes	☒ No

Summary of main issues

1. The Smart Cities programme includes an ambition to provide an Open Data Platform, which will become the focal point for Open Data hosting for the City.

2. The Government have set ambitious targets for the development of Open Data solutions within Cities with solutions meeting clear criteria:

   - The platform must be truly open and based on an Open Source technology
   - Must be a city wide resource and available to anyone

3. The Local Government Association has Grant funded key developments within the Leeds Data Mill. This funding was conditional on the adoption of Open Source technology.
   In addition as part the Open Data programme Innovate UK (Formerly the Technology Strategy Board Board) has grant funded an Open Data research project based on a collaboration between York City Council, University of Central

Lancashire (UCLAN), Leeds City Council, York Local TV Channel (Hello York) and HeBe Works Ltd.

4. Under this collaboration Leeds City Council (LCC) need to provide a hosting environment for the Open Data Platform (Leeds Data Mill) in order to fulfil their obligations under the Grant Funding agreement.

5. The technology utilised for the Leeds Data Mill is based on Open Source Technology CKAN – This is used at Government level in major countries of the world i.e. the US, UK, Brazil etc.

6. Data Press Ltd are the UK's leading CKAN specialists and are responsible for the development of Data.Gov.Uk and the London Data Store – Both recognised as world leading Open Data Portals.

Recommendations

The Chief Information Officer is recommended to waive contract procedure rules 8.1 and award a contract to Data Press Ltd to host the open data platform (The Data Mill) and support the Leeds version of this platform (The Leeds Data Mill) for a period of 2 years.

Purpose of this report

1   Report to seek approval to waiver contract procedure rules 8.1 and award a contract to Data Press Ltd to host the open data platform (The Data Mill) and support the Leeds version of this platform (The Leeds Data Mill) for a period of 2 years.

2.   Background information

2.1   A Smart City is one which effectively maximizes the use of digital information and technology for the benefit of the whole City and communities. The world's most successful cities have digital programmes where public and private sectors co-operate to achieve sustainable city outcomes increasing economic competitiveness and prosperity.

2.2   As other leading smart Cities have shown, significant benefits can be realised by making data open and available across the City. The more we can make our data available, the more we will be supporting the innovation of organisations and individuals in our community who can develop, in a positive way, the capabilities of technology.

3.   Main issues

3.1   The Smart Cities programme includes an ambition to provide an Open Data Platform, which will become the focal point for Open Data hosting for the City.

3.2   The Government have set ambitious targets for the development of Open Data solutions within Cities with solutions meeting clear criteria:

- The platform must be truly open and based on an Open Source technology
- Must be a city wide resource and available to anyone

3.3   The grant funding received from LGA and the Innovate UK collaboration project has brought together the Public, Private and Educational sectors to research and develop Hyper Local solutions using Open Data.

3.4   Under this collaboration Leeds City Council (LCC) need to provide a hosting environment for the Open Data Platform (Leeds Data Mill) in order to fulfil their obligations under the Grant Funding agreement.

3.5   The technology utilised for the Leeds Data Mill is based on Open Source Technology CKAN – This is used at Government level in major countries of the world i.e. the US, UK, Brazil etc.

3.6   CKAN is a fully-featured, mature, open source data management solution. CKAN provides a streamlined way to make data discoverable and presentable. Each dataset is given its own page with a rich collection of metadata, making it a valuable and easily searchable resource. CKAN allows for easy publication and discovery of datasets

3.7   The UK government continues to use CKAN Technology to develop data.gov.uk and the London Data Store. These sites have a global reputation as leading

exemplars of a government data portal. The CKAN system has successfully handled growth from a few dozen to many thousands of datasets, and a concomitant growth in site traffic. It has played a significant enabling role in the development of the UK government's transparency and open data agenda

3.8   The data.gov.uk site, including its CKAN component, has also undergone penetration testing by UK government security testing consultants.

3.9   Data Press Ltd are the UK's leading CKAN specialists and are responsible for the development of Data.Gov.Uk and the London Data Store – Both recognised as world leading Open Data Portals.

3.10   Data Press Ltd are core members of the Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF) which is the world body maintaining the CKAN feature set and Open Source version management.

3.11   Data Press Ltd are based in the Open Data Institute (ODI) London and provide hosting and support services for CKAN implementations.

3.12   Data Press Ltd currently host the Leeds Data Mill and are the most appropriate hosting and technical delivery environment for the Solution. In addition Data Press Ltd. have the capability to deliver the outcomes of the project and develop required enhancements to the Data Mill service.

5.   Corporate considerations

5.1   Consultation and engagement

5.1.1 This award and has been developed with PPPU\PU, ICT Strategic Sourcing and ICT's Service leadership team, all of whom are supportive of the proposed approach.

5.1.2 Executive members with specific responsibilities for procurement and the council's digital strategy have been consulted and are supportive.

5.2   Equality and diversity, cohesion and integration

5.2.1 Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration requirements are embedded in all planning processes for the Open Data and Innovate UK Programme

5.2.2 All programme and policy changes are assessed for equality, diversity, cohesion and integration, to ensure that access is fair and equal;

5.3   Council policies and the best council plan

5.3.1 This award relates to external spend which supports the city and council objectives \ outcomes. Specifically the Best City for Data.

5.3.2 The Innovate UK project and wider open data programme supports the ambition to be "The Best City Council in the UK" and the council's values. It will assist in the achievement of outcomes contained in the Best Council Plan 2015-2020 and help to deliver the wider city priorities, particularly 'Becoming a more efficient and enterprising council' and 'Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth'.

5.4   Resources and value for money

5.4.1   The budget is funded from the Smart Cities Budget. The value of the expenditure under this agreement will not exceed £30k.

5.4.2   This direct award represents the lowest administrative cost and value for   money when acquiring the required technical and development resources supporting the Open Data platform and the local open data exploitation programme.

5.4.3   The contract shall be for 2 years from 1st May 2016 and will expire automatically on 1st May 2018.

5.5   Legal implications, access to information and call-in

5.5.1   The award is a significant operational decision taken by the Chief Information Officer and is not subject to call in.

5.6   Risk management

5.6.1   The risk with respect to this engagement under the Open Data programme is:

Intellectual property rights arising from the work that is generated – These are to be consistent with the smart cities strategy and it is anticipated that most products   or services will be developed on open data principles without direct commercial benefit, for those engagements that are anticipated to generate the potential for commercial gain the intellectual property rights will be established   prior   to   the agreement for funding.

6.   Conclusions

6.1   **Data Press Ltd** are the UK's leading CKAN specialists and are working closely with Government on the development of Data.Gov.Uk and the London Data Store solutions. They are also core members of the Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF) which is the world body maintaining the CKAN feature set and Open Source version management.

6.2   Data Press Ltd currently hosts the Leeds Data Mill and are the most appropriate hosting and technical delivery environment for the Solution. The hosting contract needs to be awarded to Data Press Ltd which will ensure the Data Mill service continues to deliver city outcomes and increasing economic competitiveness and growth.

6.3   The value for the work is contained within the Smart Cities budget profile. Data Press Ltd represents the best value approach for delivery.

7.   Recommendations

7.1   **The Chief Information Officer is recommended to waive contract procedure rules 8.1 and award a contract to Data Press Ltd to host the open data platform (The Data Mill) and support the Leeds version of this platform (The Leeds Data Mill) for a period of 2 years.**

7.2   The decision should be taken immediately.

8.   Background documents

8.1   None