

Report to Chief Officer, Highways & Transportation

Date: 1st May 2018

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. C2 Cloud Software produced by Drakewell Computer Systems has been used by the Transport Policy service within Highways and Transportation of the City Development Department for over 14 years. Drakewell C2-Cloud Software is a service to Leeds City Council to process traffic data collected from automatic traffic counters deployed throughout West Yorkshire.
2. The current contract expires 30th April 2018 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 at a cost of £35,360

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 C2 Cloud Software produced by Drakewell Computer Systems has been used by the Transport Policy service within Highways and Transportation of the City Development Department for over 14 years. Drakewell C2-Cloud Software is a service to Leeds City Council and is utilised to process traffic data collected from automatic traffic counters deployed throughout West Yorkshire which 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.

- 2.2 The existing contract ends on 30th April 2018

3 Main issues

- 3.1 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.

3.2 Reason for Contracts Procedure Rules Waiver

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

3.2.2 C2 is used by transport policy to process and supply in excess of a thousand counts per year. It also supports the following with direct and/or supported access to data and reports:

- Highways & Transportation engineers and transport planners
- Other authorities in the West Yorkshire districts as part of an income generating service agreement with Leeds City Council
- North Yorkshire County Council's (NYCC) contract with LCC. NYCC hold their own C2 licence.
- A number of agencies & consultants to directly access specified data. Some of which is chargeable income

To use another application would affect many areas with the amount of work involved this isn't a viable option in terms of cost and the extensive work which would be required.

3.2.3 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. The data is also relied upon for the development and updating of transport models that support major schemes and initiatives across the Leeds City Council area. It is essential that access is maintained continuously.

3.3 **Consequences if the proposed Waiver is not approved.**

3.3.1 In addition to software changes in implementing a new system, it would also require a large scale data migration of over 4TB 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.

3.3.2 If the waiver was not approved immediately, it is highly likely that there would be disruption in access to the data, which would be a risk to the development of a number of high profile transport schemes across Leeds.

4 **Corporate Considerations**

4.1 **Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 Consultation has not taken place with elected members.

4.1.2 The service has had a full demonstration of the software by the provider and the existing system has been tried and tested.

4.2 **Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening is not required for the approvals requested.

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 £10,400 or as a 4 year contract at a discounted one off cost of £35,360 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 has been decommissioned providing a reduction in hardware and maintenance costs.

4.4.3 The use of Drakewell is best value for the council, as the only alternative would be to change to a new provider of the service. This would incur additional costs for the provision of the new service and maintenance, plus the additional time and costs associated with migrating to a new system. This cost is prohibitive.

4.4.4 It would be prudent to review this position in future when the contract is up for renewal again, as by this time alternative counting equipment may be in use and other (cheaper) systems for hosting and distributing data may be available.

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. This decision is a significant operational decision and as such will be published by the Council.

4.5.2 Awarding this contract directly to Drakewell Computer Systems in this way could leave the Council open to a potential claim from other suppliers to whom this contract could be of interest that it has not been wholly transparent. In terms of transparency, it should be noted that case law suggests that the Council should always consider whether contracts of this value could be of interest to suppliers from other EU member states and, if it could, the opportunity should be 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, its 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 The Chief Officer Highways & Transportation has considered this and due to the relatively low value of this contract is of the view that it would not be of interest to contractors in other EU Member States.

4.5.4 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the waiver of CPR 8.1 and 8.2, the above comments should be noted. In making their final decision, the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) should be aware of the risk of challenge to the Council and satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for money for the Council.

4.6 Risk Management

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

4.6.2 There remains a risk that a complaint could be raised that the council has not followed reasonable procedures, resulting in a loss of opportunity, which could potentially give rise to an Ombudsman Investigation, however it considered that this risk is low.

5 Conclusions

5.1 LCC should renew the contract with Drakewell Computer Systems for hosting and distribution of traffic data given the summary below:

- Transport policy is heavily invested in the use of Drakewell C2 in terms of collecting, processing and analysing traffic data across the whole of West and North Yorkshire.
- A wide range of clientele, which bring in an external income, directly access and use C2Web.
- Contracted surveys for North Yorkshire County Council (approx. £45k per annum) are processed and supplied by LCC. North Yorkshire County Council also use Drakewell C2 Software with their own licence agreement.

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 (Quotations) and

(i) Approve entering a contract with Drakewell Computer Systems for continuing support of the C2 data system for a period of 4 years at a cost of £35,360.

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.