

Report of: Solution Architect

Report to: Chief Digital and Information Officer

Date: 3rd October 2019

Subject: Tender Award Report - ITS201034 Provision of Penetration Testing and Security Assessment Services

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, 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: Confidential Appendix A – Tender Scores Breakdown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Chief Digital and Information Officer approved the commencement of a procurement for ITS201034 Provision of Penetration Testing and Security Assessment Services on the 26th June 2019.
2. Following the procurement exercise run in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015, this report provides the detail of the procurement process and the recommended outcome.

Recommendations

3. The Chief Digital and Information Officer to approve the award of a contract to Pentest People Limited for a period of two years with the option to extend the contract by a further two years.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. Following the evaluation of tenders received for ITS201034 Provision of Penetration Testing and Security Assessment Services, this report recommends the award of a contract to Pentest People Limited for a period of two years with the option to extend the contract by a further two years.

2. Background information

- 2.1. The procurement was for the provision of for ITS201034 Provision of Penetration Testing and Security Assessment Services.
- 2.2. The procurement followed the Open Procedure of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 on behalf of Leeds City Council, Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR.
- 2.3. An Invitation to tender was published on the Council's procurement portal YORtender, with advertisements sent to the Official Journal of the European Union on the 15th July 2019 and on Contracts Finder on 17th July 2019 with a closing date for receipt of tenders of 21st August 2019.
- 2.4. The duration of the contract is two years with the option to extend the contract by a further two years.
- 2.5. The estimated maximum value of the contract is £200,000
- 2.6. The evaluation panel comprised the following staff from within Digital and Information Services:
 - Solution Architect
 - Security Technical Lead x 2
 - Cyber Assurance and Compliance Manager
- 2.7. The Council took the decision not to subdivide the opportunity into Lots. The Council decided to appoint a single supplier to conduct security activity to provide an aggregated view of vulnerabilities and actions in one place.

3. Main considerations and reasons for contract award

- 3.1. The full tender scoring breakdown can be found at Confidential Appendix A. The following provides a summary of the outcome.
- 3.2. The following tenderers submitted a response to the Council's Invitation to tender:
 - CCL (Solutions) Group Ltd
 - Managed Security Solutions Ltd
 - SureCloud Limited
 - MTI Technology Ltd
 - Pentest People Ltd
- 3.3. The tender received from MTI Technology Ltd was non-compliant as the required tender documentation was not provided within their response.
- 3.4. Tenderers were required to demonstrate their experience, skills, resources and capacity to deliver the contracts by responding to a Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ). Those that did not demonstrate this were not evaluated further.
- 3.5. Two tenders (SureCloud Limited and Managed Security Solutions Ltd) failed to pass the Standard Selection Questionnaire and were not evaluated further.

- 3.6. Tenders who successfully passed the Standard Selection Questionnaire were then evaluated on both quality and price in accordance with the tender evaluation criteria detailed within the published tender instructions.
- 3.7. The maximum amount of points available for quality was 500 and was subdivided with minimum thresholds as detailed in Confidential Appendix A.
- 3.8. The points available for each method statement were related to the importance of that method statement to the delivery of the service.
- 3.9. The maximum points available for price was 500 as detailed in Confidential Appendix A.
- 3.10. The overall price and quality scores can be found in Confidential Appendix A and demonstrates best combination of price and quality was offered by Pentest People Limited.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1. No consultation has taken place with key stakeholders as to whether the contract should be awarded to the winning bidder or not as this is determined by the evaluation of the tender received. However, consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken when the particular procurement route was chosen.

4.2. Equality and diversity/cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1. There are no implications for equality and diversity or cohesion and integration.

4.3. Council policies and best council plan

- 4.3.1. The use of penetration testing and the IT Health check supports the Council's responsibilities to partner organisations, e.g. the Public Service Network, and allows the council to fulfil its obligations to external organisation to whom we provide a service, e.g. the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group and Leeds GP Surgeries.
- 4.3.2. The use of penetration testing and IT Health Check supports compliance with the law, particular the Data Protection Act 2018/GDPR and supports the Council's policies on information security.

4.4. Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1. The requirements specification was developed with an emphasis of reducing the impact on Council services and resources where possible and ensuring that the council had the capability to meet external compliance standards.
- 4.4.2. The evaluation criteria included minimum quality thresholds which were comfortably exceeded by the successful tenderer.
- 4.4.3. The successful tenderer provided the most competitive pricing across the tenders evaluated and costs were in line with expectations.

4.5. Legal implications, access to information and call-in

- 4.5.1. The decision to go out to tender was approved as an Administrative Decision by the Chief Digital and Information Officer on 26th June 2019.

4.5.2. The procurement was conducted in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 using the OJEU Open Procedure.

4.6. Risk management

4.6.1. Contract risk will be managed by an appointed contract manager who will implement a contract management plan.

5. Conclusions

5.1. Pentest People Limited demonstrated their ability to meet the Council's requirements and their submission represents value for money over the term of the contract.

6. Recommendations

6.1. The Chief Digital and Information Officer to approve the award of a contract to Pentest People Limited for an initial period of two 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.