

Report Author: Ian Milner

Tel: 0113 378 4311



Report of: Security Technical Lead, Resources and Housing
Report to: Chief Digital and Information Officer

Date: 19th December 2019

Subject: Request to use the CCS Framework RM3808 (Network Services 2) to direct award a call-off order to Virgin Media Business Ltd for increased Internet Connectivity (increased bandwidth) of the Council's Internet service provisions to support delivery of the Community Cloud programme.

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:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Council currently has recently varied the contract that it has in place with Virgin Media Business Ltd – DN205214 (LCCITS120033 LCC Managed Wan) to remove the provision of Internet Connectivity.
2. To support the delivery of the Community Cloud project, there is a requirement to increase the bandwidth of the Councils Internet provision.
3. The Chief Digital and Information Officer approved the commencement of a procurement exercise to use CCS Framework RM3808 (Network Services 2) on 9th December 2019.

Recommendations

The Chief Digital and Information Officer is recommended to:

- note that the Council's current contract with Virgin Media Business DN205214 (LCCITS120033 LCC Managed Wan) has been varied to remove the provision of internet connectivity and;
- use the CCS Framework RM3808 (Network Services 2) to direct award a call-off order to Virgin Media Business Ltd for increased Internet Connectivity for a 5 year period commencing 01 January 2020 at a cost of £259,981,65.

1. Purpose of this report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the reasons for seeking approval to use the CCS Framework RM3808 (Network Services 2) to direct award a call-off order to Virgin Media Business Ltd for increased Internet Connectivity (increased bandwidth) of the Council's Internet service provisions to support delivery of the Community Cloud programme.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 To support the Community Cloud programme there is a requirement to improve Internet Connectivity by increasing the Council's internet bandwidth as soon as possible.
- 2.2 The Council currently has a contract with Virgin Media Business Ltd which includes Internet Connectivity services, however, the bandwidth currently contracted for is not sufficient to support the anticipated requirements of the Community Cloud programme and this element of the contract has recently been terminated.
- 2.3 To support successful delivery of the Community Cloud programme, which will involve increased consumption of Cloud based services, the Council needs to increase available bandwidth.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The Council has a need to contract with a supplier who can provide the levels of Internet Connectivity to support delivery of the Community Cloud project as it is essential that the Council increases its bandwidth to allow for an increased consumption in Cloud based services.
- 3.2 The Council has considered the available procurement options and has concluded that the most appropriate and cost effective route is to use the CCS Framework RM3808 (Network Services 2) to procure the services required. The use of CCS Framework RM3808 allows direct award of a call-off order for services required, subject to the appropriate evaluation exercise of all suitable offerings being completed.
- 3.3 The Council has completed an evaluation of all suitable offerings on the CCS Framework RM3808 (Network Services 2). The evaluation was based 100% on price (i.e. life cycle costs; cost effectiveness & price; price and running costs).
- 3.4 When reaching this decision, the Council also took into consideration additional factors:
- Cost of change - to change supplier of Internet Connectivity services would be a huge undertaking for the Council with the cost of change (due to internal resources required) likely to outway the cost benefits.

- Existing service provision – there would be a potential for disruption to existing services whilst any change in service provider was being implemented, which would have serious and significant operational and reputational implications.

3.5 The new contract to be awarded to Virgin Media Business Ltd as a result of the procurement exercise using CCS Framework RM3808 (NETWORK SERVICES 2) will provide 4x current internet bandwidth at a cost of approx. £26k per circuit per year. By comparison, the Council's current contract with Virgin Media Business Ltd is £23k per circuit per year.

3.6 The proposed contract will be for a period of 5 years at a total cost of £259,981,65.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Digital and Information Officer, the Head of Strategy & Solutions and with ICT Strategic Sourcing Team.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 There are no issues relevant to equality and diversity / cohesion and integration with this decision.

4.3 Council policies and best Council plan

4.3.1 The Community Cloud programme will help the Council's Digital and Information Services and the broader Council to work towards the Best Council Plan. Increased internet bandwidth is a foundation block for the Community Cloud programme.

Climate Emergency

The move towards Cloud based services will lessen the on-premise data centre footprint of the Council.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The option to use CCS Framework RM3808 (NETWORK SERVICES 2) and award a call-off order to Virgin Media Business Ltd supports best use of Council funds and resources, which will provide the Council with the required significant increase in bandwidth whilst ensuring no disruption to service provision.

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

4.5.1 Approval to award a call-off order against CCS Framework RM3808 (NETWORK SERVICES 2) to Virgin Media Business Ltd at this value is a Significant Operational Decision and is not subject to call-in.

4.5.2 The Council's Professional and Commercial Services have reviewed the terms and conditions of the CCS Framework RM3808 (NETWORK SERVICES 2) and are satisfied that there are no legal impediments to using the Framework to award a call-off order direct to Virgin Business Media Ltd.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 There are no risks associated with awarding a call-off order using CCS Framework RM3808 (NETWORK SERVICES 2).

5. Conclusions

5.1 Awarding a call-off order to Virgin Media Business Ltd through the CCS Framework RM3808 (Network Services 2) enables the Council to increase the bandwidth of its internet services to support the delivery of the Community Cloud programme in the most cost effective and timely way. The contract costs demonstrate value for money with the additional benefit that there will be no disruption to service provision.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Chief Digital and Information Officer is recommended to:

- note that the Council's current contract with Virgin Media Business DN205214 (LCCITS120033 LCC Managed Wan) has been varied to remove the provision of internet connectivity and;
- use the CCS Framework RM3808 (Network Services 2) to direct award a call-off order to Virgin Media Business Ltd for increased Internet Connectivity for a 5 year period commencing 01 January 2020 at a cost of £259,981,65.

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.