



Report of Team Leader Business Development and Practice Management

Report to City Solicitor

Date: 20 April 2020

Subject: West Yorkshire Legal Framework (WYLaw) – Contract Extension

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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

1. Main issues

- In 2017 Leeds City Council led the tender process for the framework on behalf of the WYLaw authorities, who are Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, City of York Council, Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council, Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council, and West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Selby District Council has recently joined the group.
- The framework agreement with each of the firms was awarded for 3 years commencing on 1 July 2017 and expiring on 30 June 2020, with an option to extend for one further year.
- The framework agreement comprises of the following ten lots:
 1. Childcare Law
 2. Adult Social Service and Community Law
 3. General Litigation
 4. General Conveyancing / Routine Property
 5. General Contracts, Commercial and IT
 6. Planning, Compulsory Purchase, Highways and Environmental
 7. Major or Complex Procurements
 8. Local Government Law and Corporate Governance

9. Employment Law and Pensions

10. Public Health

- The framework meets the organisational and business needs of the WYLaw authorities in circumstances where existing resources are not sufficient to meet peak demands or where specialist support is required.
- The WYLaw authorities are in agreement to extend the framework for one further year to all firms awarded contracts under the original framework.

2. **Best Council Plan Implications** (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The WYLaw Framework supports the best council plan priorities of keeping people safe from harm and supporting children to have the best start in life.
- The WYLaw Framework supports Legal Services commitment to spend money wisely.
- The WYLaw Framework supports the council's objective to become a more efficient and enterprising council.

3. **Resource Implications**

- The anticipated maximum value of the WYLaw Framework was £10million (including any extension) over the life of the contract. The anticipated spend for Leeds in relation to the WYLaw Framework was £100k pa.
- Total spend by the WYLaw authorities over the 3 years of the framework is in the region of £6 million.
- Savings realised by the WYLaw authorities over the 3 years of the framework are in excess of £4 million.

Recommendations

- a) The City Solicitor is recommended to approve the extension to the WYLaw Framework.
- b) The extension period is one year to 30 June 2021. The value of this extension is estimated to be £2m and the anticipated spend for Leeds approximately £500k.

1. **Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To obtain approval from the City Solicitor to extend the WYLaw Framework for one year to 30 June 2021 to all firms awarded contracts under the original framework.

2. **Background information**

- 2.1 The WYLaw Authorities established the West Yorkshire Legal Framework for the provision of legal services on a non-exclusive basis, to meet their organisational and business needs in circumstances where existing resources are not sufficient to meet peak demands or where specialist support is required.
- 2.2 The WYLaw Authorities have arrangements in place to share resources where possible to reduce the need for external legal support, and this has worked successfully in a number of areas.

- 2.3 The WYLaw Authorities have recently joined the EM Lawshare Consortium, which gives them access to their framework contract, however, the rates under that framework are often more expensive than under the WYLaw framework
- 2.4 The WYLaw Authorities are looking to continue to secure value for money on annual spend on legal services.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 There are no specific implications or impact on a specific ward or wards as the provision is citywide.
- 3.2 There is provision under the framework to extend for one further year and the WYLaw authorities wish to do so as the service provision under the framework continues to meet their needs and to provide value for money.
- 3.3 The recommendation contained in this report will have positive cost saving implications for the WYLaw Authorities, including Leeds, without impacting on the quality of the service received.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation has taken place with the WYLaw Authorities on whether to extend the framework for one further year and all authorities are in agreement to extend the framework to all firms awarded contracts under the original framework.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Screening has been completed and is attached.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The WYLaw Framework supports the best council plan priorities of keeping people safe from harm and supporting children to have the best start in life.
- 4.3.2 The WYLaw Framework supports Legal Services commitment to spend money wisely.
- 4.3.3 The WYLaw Framework supports the council's objective to become a more efficient and enterprising council.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.4 The WYLaw Framework supports the council's sustainable infrastructure priority of promoting a more competitive, less wasteful, more resource efficient, low carbon economy by meeting peak demands and the requirement for specialist support through the framework.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The anticipated maximum value of the WYLAW Framework was £10million (including any extension) over the life of the contract. The anticipated spend for

Leeds in relation to the WYLAW Framework was £100k pa, however this has increased. The anticipated value of the 12 month extension for Leeds is now £500k.

4.4.2 Total spend by the WYLaw authorities over the 3 years of the framework is in the region of £6 million.

4.4.3 Savings realised by the WYLaw authorities over the 3 years of the framework are in excess of £4 million.

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

4.5.1 Leeds City Council led the original tender process for the framework on behalf of the WYLaw authorities. The council's in-house Procurement service and legal support were involved throughout the tender process. The current contract includes provision to extend for up to one year, so the proposed extension has the protection of that contract.

4.5.2 The value of this extension is estimated to be £2m and the anticipated spend for Leeds approximately £500k. Due to the value of the extension this is a key decision which is subject to call-in.

4.5.3 There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 If this recommendation is not approved, an alternative solution would be required which may breach contract procedure rules and also not be cost effective. The WYLaw Authorities would use the EM Lawshare framework contract, whose rates are often more expensive, go out to tender individually or purchase off contract as required.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The recommendations contained within this report will help ensure that quality and cost effective legal solutions are available to the member authorities.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The City Solicitor is recommended to approve the extension to the WYLaw Framework.

6.2 The extension period is one year to 30 June 2021. The value of this extension is estimated to be £2m and the anticipated spend for Leeds approximately £500k.

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.