



**Report of:** YHPSN Partner Relationship and Contract Manager.

**Report to:** Chief Digital & Information Officer.

**Date:** 16th March 2021

**Subject:** Approval to award a contract on behalf of the Yorkshire and Humber Public Services Network (YHPSN) partnership to Tameside MBC for the annual membership fee of the iNetwork Collaboration.

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## Summary

### 1. Main issues

- Leeds City Council, acting as the legal entity that hosts the Yorkshire and Humberside Public Network Partnership (YHPSN), is seeking to award a contract to Tameside MBC for the annual membership fee of the iNetwork collaboration on behalf of the YHPSN partnership.
- The Partnership agreed to join iNetwork at the Partnership Management Board (PMB) in January 2021. The Council has been requested to put provisions in place to join the collaboration commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (TMBC) is the host authority for iNetwork. iNetwork is a public sector partnership supporting local public service organisations to collaborate, share and innovate to provide effective support for their users, patients and communities.
- The membership fee of the iNetwork collaboration is funded from the membership fees collected from YHPSN members.

### 2. Best Council Plan implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

Leeds Best Council Ambition (Becoming an efficient, enterprising and healthy organisation).

- Effective Partnership Working and Commissioning.

- Delivering high quality, locally integrated public services.
- Making the best use of our resources.
- Council Values: Spending money wisely.

### **3. Resource implications**

- There are no direct resource implications for the Council.
- The YHPSN Partnership are joining iNetwork to facilitate collaborative opportunities for the region. iNetwork works closely with its members to deliver innovation, savings and collaboration across its regions. This will allow partners to utilise shared projects, savings opportunities, share best practice and resources.
- Awarding this contract to Tameside MBC is cost neutral to the Council as it is funded from the membership fees collected by the Council on behalf of the YHPSN partnership.

### **Recommendations**

- a) The Chief Digital and Information Officer is recommended to approve the award of a contract to Tameside MBC in the sum of £119,000. The membership period commences on the 1st April 2021 and expires on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Leeds City Council to award a contract on behalf of the Yorkshire and Humber Public Services Network to Tameside MBC for the annual membership fee of iNetwork from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### **2. Background information**

- 2.1 The YHPSN is a collaboration of public sector organisations across the Yorkshire and Humber Region. There are currently 62 partner members that consist of health, local authorities, police, fire and rescue. The partnership is hosted by Leeds City Council and funded by membership subscription payments made annually by the partners.
- 2.2 The YHPSN Partnership Management Board agreed to join the iNetwork at the January 2021 meeting to broaden the collaborative opportunities across the region.
- 2.3 The YHPSN Executive Board and Partnership Management Board have reviewed the proposed terms and benefits of the iNetwork and wish to enter into a membership on behalf of the YHPSN. The Chair of the YHPSN has requested that Leeds City Council puts in place the necessary arrangements.

#### **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 Leeds City Council is the legal entity that hosts the YHPSN on behalf of partners across the Yorkshire and Humber. Contractual arrangements the YHPSN wish to make are, therefore, implemented by Leeds City Council on behalf of the partnership.

- 3.2 Contract Procedure Rule 9.5 permits Chief Officers to make a direct award where they consider there is genuinely no competition such that only a particular organisation or provider can meet the Council's specific requirements. As this decision relates to membership of a regional public sector collaboration with, specific aims and objectives, there are no other organisations that could provide this membership.
- 3.2. The YHPSN Executive Board and Partnership Management Board have reviewed the proposed terms and benefits of the iNetwork and wish to enter into a membership on behalf of the YHPSN. The Chair of the YHPSN has requested that Leeds City Council puts in place the necessary arrangements.

#### **4. Corporate considerations**

##### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 Consultation has taken place with key stakeholders across the YHPSN Partnership at Partnership Management Board (PMB) meetings and Executive Board meetings. The approach was agreed at the YHPSN PMB in January 2021.
- 4.1.2 The Partnership supports the decision to join the iNetwork collaboration for an initial term of one year, after which the benefits will be reviewed by the partnership.

##### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 There are no Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration issues associated with the award of this contract.

##### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 The award of this contract will support and contribute to the delivery of the following council policies and priorities: Leeds Best Council Ambition (Becoming an efficient, enterprising and healthy organisation).
- 4.3.2 **Effective Partnership Working and Commissioning:** Through collaborative working with health, police and local authority partners in the Yorkshire and the Humber Region the membership will support innovation, collaboration and sharing best practice across the regions organisations with the ultimate aim to improve services to the public.
- 4.3.3 **Delivering high quality, locally integrated public services:** The collaboration will enable better integrated working between partners as they share their priorities, best practice, and successful case studies. It allows for members to join up projects to make best use of resources.
- 4.3.4 **Making the best use of our resources:** Partners of the YHPSN will have the opportunity to share resources for common issues and projects.
- 4.3.5 **Council Values: Spending money wisely:** The iNetwork operates a procurement workstream which partners can make use of to make savings when procuring as a larger customer.

## **Climate Emergency**

- 4.3.6 iNetwork hosts member-led events to support public services in building a green and sustainable future with member organisations sharing their plans for becoming carbon neutral/zero into the future.
- 4.3.7 All of the meetings, forums and training are set up to support virtual participation which saves travel to different locations to attend.

### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The annual cost of joining iNetwork for YHPSN is £115,000. There are sufficient funds available within the monies held by Leeds City Council on behalf of the Partnership to cover these costs.

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

- 4.5.1 Contract Procedure Rule 9.5 permits Chief Officers to make a direct award where they consider there is genuinely no competition such that only a particular organisation or provider can meet the Council's specific requirements. As this decision relates to membership of a regional public sector collaboration with, specific aims and objectives, there are no other organisations that could provide this membership.
- 4.5.2 This decision is a Significant Operational Decision and not subject to call-in.

### **4.6 Risk management**

- 4.6.1 Leeds City Council will manage the relationship with iNetwork on behalf of the YHPSN Partnership. With oversight by the YPSN Executive Board.
- 4.6.2 There are no budget implications for this decision as the YPSN has sufficient funds available. Any further years membership are subject to agreement by the YHPSN partnership and will be the subject of a further future decision.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The Council should put in place an agreement with the Tameside MBC for membership of iNetwork on behalf of the YHPSN Partnership.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Chief Digital and Information Officer is recommended to approve the award a contract to Tameside MBC in the sum of £119,000 for membership of iNetwork on behalf of the YHPSN Partnership. The membership shall commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.