

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 8 December 2017
Title of report: Provision of School IT Services

Purpose of report:

To consider a proposal to provide on a commercial basis broadband and telecommunications services to schools.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes.
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Yes – The submission of a private report without giving the required 28 days' notice was agreed by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 27/11/2017
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No – call in was waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 27/11/2017
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance, IT, and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Debbie Hogg 30.11.17 Yes Julie Muscroft 30.11.17
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllrs G Turner, M Ahmed, M Khan and E Hill

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public report with Private Appendix

Paragraph 3 of part 1 to schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (access to Information) variation order 2006 contains information regards the financial or business affairs of any person including the Council. It is not in the public interest to disclose the information in the private appendix as disclosure could adversely affect the overall value for money and compromise the confidentiality of the bidders and the council .The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the information in terms of accountability, transparency in spending public money and openness in council decision making.

1. Summary

- 1.1 The company that provides broadband and communications services to about two thirds of the schools in Kirklees went into administration in October 2017.
- 1.2 The company bought a large proportion of the capacity of City Fibre IT network which was installed across Kirklees circa 3 years ago. Given the council's financial links to City Fibre, this report recommends that it is in the council's interest to re-enter the market for school broadband services.
- 1.3 The offer is for a three year arrangement (to 31 March 2021), as the council will need to buy devices that will last or be licensed for 3 years. This arrangement will be directly with schools. The capital / advanced payment cost will need to be met by the council initially, and will be recovered over the three year contractual arrangements with each school.
- 1.3 The Chief Executive was required to use her emergency powers in the Constitution (in consultation with the Leader) on Friday 23rd November to place an order to purchase the relevant hardware and software to enable schools to continue to use broadband and communication services.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The council does face some up-front costs, but by requiring schools to sign up to the three year arrangement, it is expected that all these costs can be recovered.
- 2.2 The private appendix provides information on the business case that justifies the proposal.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

None directly

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

None directly, although this continues to support the council's original objective in supporting the development of broadband facilities in the Kirklees area.

3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

This provides continuity of IT provision for a significant number of Kirklees schools who without this measure would potentially be several weeks to months without provision. For those schools connected to City Fibre, it provides very high quality IT connectivity.

3.4 Reducing demand of services

None directly

3.5 Legal/Financial or Human Resources

The main objective of this proposal is to support the council's financial position, although it will also help schools to continue to access broadband of at least the current quality.

The council will need to enter into contracts from a number of external suppliers; however, no additional employees will be required.

4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1 Strategic Directors support the need to enter this market to support the continuity of IT supply in a significant proportion of Kirklees schools.

5. Next steps

To enter into contracts with external suppliers, and arrange the transfer of services onto the new arrangements during the early part of 2018.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the arrangements being proposed in appendix 1 of this report to support the continuity of IT supply to schools, the urgency and associated financial implications in order to achieve these outcomes.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

- 7.1 Cabinet portfolio holders support the officer recommendation and note the urgency of the matter due to the failure of the previous supplier.

8. Contact officer

Martin Dearnely, Head of Risk
Terence Hudson, IT Operations Infrastructure.

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Cabinet report Kirklees Council Digital Infrastructure 1 July 2014

10. Service Director responsible

Debbie Hogg, Service Director for Finance, IT and Transactional Services.