



Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 14 November 2023

Title of report: Data Network

Purpose of report: To approve the procurement of new corporate data network services.

Key Decision – Is it likely to result in spending or saving £500k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions.	Yes – Contract value will exceed £6m over a seven to ten year period. Capital and revenue will be funded from within existing budgets.
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall 23/10/23
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Isabel Brittain 01/11/23
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft 01/11/23
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Paul Davies

Electoral wards affected: None

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

Summary

The council's current data network was designed around the provision of a public sector network (PSN) nine years ago. The network infrastructure was underpinned by open public networks provided by City Fibre and Openreach. 85% of Kirklees residents now have gigabit capable network connectivity in their homes as a consequence of our previous investment.

The current data network comprises of four parts:

1. The core network hardware that manages traffic between the data centre, resilient sites and all council buildings.
2. The data network services contract that connects corporate council assets over public networks and out to the internet.
3. A private data network connecting key sites in Huddersfield and Dewsbury.
4. A schools data network that connects 130 schools into the JANET University and Colleges network and out to the internet.

This paper sets out the decision required to replace our core network hardware (1) and the data network services between our corporate council assets. (2)

1. Information required to take a decision

The core network hardware needs to be replaced to continue to provide resilient and available infrastructure for the next seven to ten years in line with the ambition in the Technology Strategy. The core network delivers services across Kirklees and will link the town centres of Huddersfield and Dewsbury via private fibre to provide ultra-fast connectivity between both locations.

The data network contract provides a managed Public Sector Network (PSN) compliant service to over 200 corporate sites and 8000 users. The network also provides wifi access for residents and visitors, Govroam access for our partners and Eduroam access for University and College students across almost all our corporate assets.

The current costs and estimated future costs based on a like for like replacement are provided in the table below:

	Annual Revenue Cost	Estimated capital cost	Estimated revenue cost per annum
1. Core network hardware	£6k	£270k	£6k
2. Data network	£542k	£678k	£650k

The cost to change from the existing network to the new contract will be covered by the IT Capital refresh budget as previously agreed at Cabinet 14th June 2022.

The change programme from existing services to new will take around 24 months to deliver which will span the next three financial years. There will be elements of dual running costs that will need to be spread across that three year period for both capital and revenue.

The potential pressure from increased revenue costs of network connections will be offset by a reduction in the number of connected assets, a review of the service level required in each asset and through connecting more sites to dedicated private fibre with significantly lower revenue costs.

The current corporate data network contract delivers services into Libraries and Information Centres, Children's Centres and Community Centres at a current cost of £70k per annum.

Those community-based assets play an important role in connecting people to essential services and provide support in accessing digital services online. They also allow council staff, NHS, Locala, WY Police, University and College staff and students to seamlessly connect to the internet.

The IT Service are engaging with the marketplace to find more cost-effective solutions for these services and also to understand whether there are opportunities for social tariffs that can be applied for by other local voluntary and community sector groups.

2. Implications for the Council

2.1 Working with People

Continuing to provide services into community locations will support the provision of inclusive digital services into communities across Kirklees. The inclusion of social value tariffs in the contract will support future connections for partners across Kirklees.

2.2 Working with Partners

Every council asset will continue to have direct access for the NHS and Locala staff, Police and Fire, Huddersfield University and Kirklees College staff and students. This will also be the case for those assets previously transferred to the local community partners.

2.3 Place Based Working

Maintaining community locations on our network will continue to provide future opportunities for place-based working.

2.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The new procurement will include criteria to contribute to the reduction of overall power consumption and the recycling of all equipment.

2.5 Improving outcomes for children

The new procurement will include services for the children's centres across Kirklees. The IT Service will maintain access to Eduroam for students and staff across all wifi enabled locations.

2.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

None

2.7 Other (e.g. Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

The integrated impact assessment can be found here:

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/integrated-impact-assessments/home/details/IIA-551955608/>

3. Consultation

None.

4. Engagement

We will engage with the Kirklees Digital Inclusion Partnership on our plans and the outcomes of any procurement and so our VCSE partners benefit from this opportunity.

5. Next steps and timelines

Proceed to market and aim to award a contract in March 2024.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

1) Proceed with procurements for the core network hardware and the corporate data network services in line with the Technology Strategy. Ensure the procurements are delivered within existing capital and revenue budgets.

2) Continue to provide data network services into existing library and information centres, children's centres and community centres. The contract will include options for more cost effective connections and aim to provide social value tariffs for community based assets across Kirklees.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

I endorse the officer recommendations as set out above.

8. Contact officer

Terence Hudson – Head of Technology
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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Previous decision regarding capital refresh budget for IT at Cabinet 14th June 2022: <https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s46405/IT%20Capital%20->

[%20Cabinet%20Report%20005.pdf](#)

10. Service Director responsible

Andy Simcox - Service Director for Strategy and Innovation
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