

REPORT TO: STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 01 July 2019

**TOPIC: EXTENSION TO DEVON WAN (WIDE AREA NETWORK)
PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT**

REPORT BY: BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 North Devon Council has been part of the Devon WAN Partnership since 2011, with Devon County Council taking the lead in terms of procurement and contract management.

As part of our current contract, we commission 7 Devon WAN links that allow us to deliver connectivity and services across the following sites:

1. Brynsworthy Environment Centre
2. Lynton House
3. North Devon Crematorium
4. Woodlands Enterprise Centre
5. Barnstaple Museum
6. The Ilfracombe Centre
7. The Amory Centre

1.2 This partnership/contract also enables us to connect with our neighbouring authorities e.g. Torridge District Council as we host their Payroll System, Mid Devon to enable payments to come back to North Devon Council from the Building Control Partnership and also provides a shared connection into the secure PSN (Public Services Network) to enable us to share personal and often sensitive data with organisations such as the Police and Department of Work and Pensions.

1.3 Devon County have just entered into another contract with our incumbent WAN supplier, Udata and we wish to also continue our arrangement for a further year, with an option to add a further year.

1.4 Our last procurement exercise transferred the services from one supplier to another and as part of that new relationship all customers were required to transform their services with new routers at all sites. To move to another supplier would require those cost to be incurred again and not provide a good return on our capital investment.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That we set aside the requirements to tender in the Contract Procedure Rules (in Part 4 of the Constitution) and give authority to enter into an extension to its contract provision for the provision of its Wide Area Network.
- 2.2 It is essential that all partners remain with the same supplier to enable these connections and services to continue.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Devon County Council have always taken the lead in the procurement element of this partnership ensuring that value for money is achieved for themselves and partnering District Councils.
- 3.2 Not to contract with our incumbent supplier would put us at risk of not having the connectivity we require to deliver business as usual and having to conduct our own tender that would not be timely or cost effective.

4 REPORT

- 4.1 Nothing further to add.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If approved, this will enable us to reduce our base budget by £8,000.00 as we will have clear visibility of the costs for the next year or two.

6 EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 No equality implications.

7 CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

Article or Appendix and paragraph	Referred or delegated power?
Contract Procedure Rules (in Part 4 of the Constitution)	

8 STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- None

10 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

- 10.1 The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers.

Author: Nina Lake
Reference:

Date: 14 June 2019