

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

DECISION NO:

23/00119

For publication Yes

Key decision: Yes

The decision will result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000).

Title of Decision: Kent Public Services Network (KPSN) 2024 reprourement

Decision: As Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, I agree to:

- i. **APPROVE** the award of a contract for the provision of network and telecommunication connectivity services for a period of 4 years, from 8 August 2024 to 7 August 2028, with the option for a contract extension of a further 3 years, from 8 August 2028 to 7 August 2031, which will continue to be managed by the Kent Public Services Network Partnership.
- ii. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Technology, to finalise terms of and award contracts to the successful provider and to approve, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, the exercise of any extensions permitted within the agreed contacts; and
- iii. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Technology to take other relevant actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts and other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Kent Public Services Network (KPSN) contract with its service provider, Daisy Updata Communication Ltd (DUCL) for the provision of WAN, LAN and other network connectivity services expires on 7 August 2024.

KPSN is a self-funding, ICT network delivering secure and resilient connectivity services to 32 public sector organisations including Kent County Council, who also acts as the Contracting Authority for the contract with the service provider. KPSN services are critical in providing the Council (and Partners) resilient and secure network connectivity across all business functions/services.

The term of the contract will be August 2024 to August 2028 with the option to extend for up to three further years.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

No public consultation has been undertaken.

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee will consider this on 17 January 2024.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Option 1 - Further competition through RM3808 CCS framework. Whilst this would provide competitive process and deliver the same benefits as our chosen option, the incumbent supplier would not be able to bid as they are not on the relevant lots, and it is best practice to include the incumbent where possible.

Option 2 - Direct award to current supplier. This option is positive in terms of stability and continuity but reduces scope to seek improved value for money through relevant competition arrangements.

Option 3 - Full tender process under Public Contract Regulations. This provides the greatest flexibility for determining best end solution but is not viable at present due to extensive timescales, mobilisation periods and discontinuity.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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signed

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date