

**Proposed Decision to be taken by the  
Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT  
on or after 21st September 2012**

**To seek agreement to proceed to procure and award a Contract for the  
provision of Landlines, SIP Trunking and Broadband Services to Warwickshire  
County Council**

**Recommendation**

That the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT:

- 1) Approves permission to start the process for tender of new telephone landline and related services using either the new ESPO Framework or the Government National PSN Framework; and
- 2) Approves the Strategic Director of Resources to be delegated authority to award the contract.

**1.0 Key Issues**

**Background**

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council (WCC) initiated a Framework Contract via ESPO (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) over four years ago to allow WCC to be provided with a cost effective service for the provision of telephone landlines, ISDN, SIP Trunking and Broadband services for the county. This provides cheaper telephone calls and Broadband throughout the authority for the benefit of both office-based workers and home workers, including elected members.
- 1.2 This Framework contract has been taken up and used by many other local government authorities across the UK and now has a significant annual turnover.
- 1.3 The initial contract was for three years with an option to extend by one further year. The option to extend was taken up and the end of the existing Framework contract is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.
- 1.4 ESPO has taken a lead in developing a new Framework Contract based upon the greater demand across local authorities. WCC, together with Solihull MBC, have been involved in the refinement of the requirements for this Framework.
- 1.5 However, since the last framework was developed by ESPO, the Cabinet Office has developed a Public Services Network Framework that may also be able to supply these services. We will review this as an alternative framework.

**2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 This report is to seek agreement that WCC can move to procure and award the telephony services.

2.2 Historically, WCC has spent approximately £500,000 per year on these services including those used and paid for directly by schools. Due to budget pressures and Property Rationalisation, the total expenditure has reduced to approximately £450,000 per year.

2.3 Agreement is sought to proceed to use the new Framework Contract when awarded by ESPO or the new PSN Framework. This is estimated to have expenditure over a maximum of four years of £1.8m for Warwickshire County Council.

### **3.0 Timescales associated with the decision/Next steps**

3.1 A decision to agree with our use of this Framework is required by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### **4.0 Background Papers**

4.1 None.

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