

Portfolio Holder Decision

Local Full Fibre Network Procurement

Portfolio Holder	Deputy Leader
Date of decision	15 July 2022
	Signed

1. Decision taken

The Deputy Leader approves the commencement of a procurement exercise to seek a single supplier for the delivery of network connectivity at Warwickshire Schools and Corporate sites, and delegates the award of the contract to the Strategic Director of Resources on terms and conditions acceptable to him

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 Following on from the BDUK project which installed full fibre networks into 165 schools across Warwickshire, we are looking to procure connectivity for 150 schools alongside the Council's corporate sites to complete the project. The current contract with Virgin Media Business expires in November 2023
- 2.2 DCMS (Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport) will impose a financial penalty of approximately £17,000 for each site which does not have the connection activated before the end of March 2023 – approx. 220 sites across Warwickshire (Schools and Corporate)
- 2.3 However, as traded service will also be allowing space in scope for new schools who may wish to take the service from us.
- 2.4 Given the value is anticipated to be £2.8million across the life of the contract, this requires a decision of Cabinet, the Leader or the Deputy Leader to commence the procurement exercise pursuant to Contract Standing Orders.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Warwickshire County Council has recently completed a project to install Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) into 220 sites across Warwickshire. The project was funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS). This procurement seeks a supplier to enable the activation of the installed LFFN connections at over 200 of these sites. The project is time constrained and a supplier needs to be appointed with all connections active by the end of March 2023 to avoid financial penalties imposed by DCMS.

- 3.2 The Supplier will essentially provide internet connectivity to those schools and Council owned sites in scope.
- 3.3 All Schools and Corporate Sites in initial scope for this procurement are currently under Contract with the Council (WCC) for the provision of broadband services, and this procurement seeks to ensure the continuation of that service to the sites in scope. WCC's current supplier is Virgin Media Business, who provide a range of different connection speeds at those schools and corporate sites currently served.
- 3.4 The newly installed LFFN connections will deliver significantly faster speeds at each site, improving the ICT experience for both the Council's ICT users, and across Warwickshire Schools.
- 3.5 The Council are seeking a single Supplier for the delivery of both the Schools and Corporate Sites element of this Contract.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The anticipated value of this procurement is £2.8m across the 5-year term.
- 4.2 The conditions of the DCMS funding will impose a financial penalty of approximately £17,000 for each site completed under the DCMS funded project which does not have the connection activated before the end of March 2023.

5. Environmental implications

- 5.1 There are no immediate environmental implications arising from this report.

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Assistant Director	Craig Cusack
Strategic Director	Strategic Director for Resources
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None.

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin

Corporate Board – Rob Powell

Legal – Hassan Hafiz and Nichola Vine

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – n/a

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Local Member(s): n/a