

SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL
SPECIAL DELEGATION PROCEDURE

COMMITTEE CONCERNED: Cabinet

FROM: L R Wright

SERVICE UNIT: ICT Services

DATE: 13 March 2008

ICT Service Support Contract

A contract providing a flexible support partnership that helps underpin the ICT Service at Salisbury has been provided by British Telecom Northern Ireland (BT NI) since April 2001. The contract was for an initial 5 year period, and as it was seen to be working well, an option to extend for a further 2 years was exercised in April 2006. This contract is now due to expire on 31 March 2008, and due to the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation, it was hoped to be able to 'piggy back' a similar contract provided by Steria Ltd that is already in place at Wiltshire County Council. It was felt that this would provide economies of scale that would benefit Salisbury, as well as having the effect of bringing us into line with the County in ICT support terms in time for 1 April 2009. Bids were therefore sought from Steria Ltd, and also BT NI as current holders of the contract.

Unfortunately, subsequent analysis of the bids has revealed that Steria Ltd would charge approximately £45,000 more than BT NI to provide a similar level of service (£240K vs £195K) and it is therefore not possible to recommend them as providing acceptable value for the Council at this time. The quote from BT NI on the other hand, is seen as providing very good value, is slightly cheaper than that charged by them for a broadly similar level of service last year, and is also attractive in terms of continuity of service etc.

So that a hiatus in terms of ICT support can be avoided, it is imperative that the support contract is renewed in time for 1 April 2008. It is therefore requested that standing orders relating to tendering etc are waived, and that the Head of ICT Services be authorised to award the contract to BT NI for the period 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009.

BT NI is a member of HM Treasuries Office of Government Commerce (OGC) G-Cat Panel [ref A217833/L2] and therefore the relevant OJEU notice extended to public authorities enabling SDC to participate in the approved framework arrangements.

(Please tick relevant box)

IMPLICATIONS	OFFICER	COMMENTS (incl)	NONE	NOT APPLICABLE
Legal	JC	Although contract standing orders require competitive tendering the delegation sought is in the circumstances justified		
Financial	AO	Anticipated expenditure is within existing budgets		
Procurement Manager		None		
Personnel		None		
Environmental		None		

Co-ordinated with

Officer (s)

Unit (s)

APPROVED :

Leader : Portfolio Holder :

Copy to: Chair & Vice Chairman of relevant Scrutiny Panel