Wards Affected: All Wards

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM – DECISION TO PROCEED TO TENDER

Author: Bill Errington and Gillian Smith   Tel: (01908) 252612 / 252569

Executive Summary:

This report is seeking approval to commence the tender process in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations.

Tenders will be invited using the Council's E-Tendering system for the provision of a Corporate Geographic Information System (GIS). This will provide the Council with the facilities to maintain and capture geographic information, to display geographic information in a web browser to staff and the public. It will also provide the necessary tools to allow data to be manipulated and analysed and will provide the flexibility to allow all current systems which utilise a mapping component to function effectively.

1   Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the commencement of the tender process for the procurement of a Corporate Geographic Information System be approved.

2   Issues

2.1 The Council's Constitution requires all procurement in excess of £100,000 to be approved by Cabinet Procurement Committee.

2.2 This report requests approval to obtain tenders for the provision of a Corporate Geographic Information System. It is Council Constitution to have a Contract in place and we need to explore the market to see that we have the right tools in place to deliver the service.

2.3 In 2007 the Council embarked on a tender exercise for a Corporate Mapping System. The model followed required the successful contractor to deliver a solution which comprised both software and services (training, set-up and implementation, development and documentation). The total cost of the solution was £123,728 (£104,053 on software and maintenance and £19,665 on services and training) a full break down is shown in Annex A. In addition the council purchased software from Envitia which allowed us to rectify our spatial data to the Ordnance Surveys new digital data set Mastermap, this cost £16,680 with £3,630 annual maintenance. The tender excluded the cost of licences for desk top mapping software which were borne by individual departments over time. The annual maintenance of these licences is currently £19,500. This exercise is seeking to deliver a solution which does not include major software up front costs as in the previous tender but spread costs over the five year period as an annual maintenance cost. Spreading it over 5 years doesn't necessarily reduce costs or make savings.

2.4 The successful contractor will be required to provide a solution that fulfils the tender specification, integrating with existing systems and within a maximum annual budget of £51,000 including the cost of maintaining MapInfo and Superpose/Transpose licences or the provision of a suitable alternative. The current revenue spend (See Annex B) on corporate mapping is £51,000 per annum or £255,000 over 5 years.

2.5 Included in the £51,000 is a cost of 40 concurrent and 13 individual node MapInfo licences (£19,500) which IT recover from the services who have access to mapping licences at a per licence cost of £150 per annum. The budget currently resides with the Assistant Director IT and e-Government. This tender seeks to utilise this revenue budget going forward and place a tender which does not exceed this amount per annum, over a five year term.

2.6 Consultation and Policy

    2.6.1 The draft specification will be developed in partnership with the relevant Cabinet Member and the following key stakeholders

- Research and Intelligence GIS

- IT Mouchel

- MKC Corporate IT

- Public Access

2.7 Specification

    2.7.1 The procurement seeks to deliver the following service objectives:

- Provide timely, accurate and accessible information which supports the provision of services and contributes to policy and strategy development

    2.7.2 The Specification can be summarised as:

- Spatial database to hold and manage all datasets

- Intranet solution to make data available to officers

- Internet solution to make data available to the public

- Professional GIS software for use in managing data and mapping

- Tools to allow the management of data views in intranet and internet solution

- Tools to enable the development of mapping links to MKC website

- Metadata model to conform to INSPIRE (**IN**frastructure for **SP**atial **I**nfo**R**mation in the **E**uropean Community) directive

- Software to manage Ordnance Survey mapping information

- Tools to allow rectification of datasets in regard their positional accuracy, to ensure information aligns with the latest mapping from Ordnance Survey. This ensures greater accuracy, especially for data in rural areas of Milton Keynes Borough

- Be compliant with all MKC systems which rely on being served mapped information, these will be validated by Mouchel IT in liaison with system users.

- The solution must work with the council's virtualised hardware model as there is no funding for hardware purchase.

2.8 Evaluation Criteria & Panel

    2.8.1 The MEAT evaluation of tenders will be as follows:

        Price @ 40% / Quality @ 60%

        Quality to include:

            Functional and technical compliance with specification

            Robustness and ability to integrate with existing systems

            System usability including reference sites

    2.8.2 Tenders submitted will be evaluated by a panel comprising IT, technical officers, management and service users. Colleagues within Finance and Legal and Corporate Procurement will be engaged to support the tender process.

2.9 Contract Terms and Conditions

    2.9.1 Tenders will be sought for a contract period starting on 01/11/2013 and ending on 31/10/2016. The contract will provide for an extension up to 2 years, on a + 1 + 1 basis to protect the council against a quickly moving market.

    2.9.2 The Council's standard software Terms and Conditions for contract will be used and these will be validated by Legal Services prior to issue with the Tender documents.

    2.9.3 The Council's Senior Client Officer for the procurement is Director of Strategy and for the management of the contract is Head of Research and Intelligence.

3   **Alternative Options**

3.1   The following options appraisal has been conducted:

Option 1 – go out to full European open market tender via InTend for the GIS and mapping services described in section 2.3

Option 2 – extend the existing Pitney Bowes contracts for MapInfo, Stratus, PlanWeb on a rolling annual basis.

Option 3 – go out to tender using an existing Government Procurement Services Framework agreement.

3.2   Recommendation

It is recommended that Option 1 is used as this gives access to a wide range of GIS and mapping solution providers who are able to make full use of the current web technologies (eg Google Maps / Bing Maps) and have existing contracts with other UK Local Authorities. This will give the opportunity to take advantage of market developments and new products and test whether we are achieving value for money for the Council.

Option 2 is not viable because the council has been using the Pitney Bowes systems for some time and does not have a mandate to simply extend the current contract.

Option 3 would make the procurement process simpler but a review of the available frameworks concluded that none of them are suitable for the scope of services proposed.   The nearest equivalents are the LGSAS and GCloud Specialist Services frameworks but the list of approved suppliers does not include the GIS and Mapping providers known to be successful with other Local Authorities.

4   **Implications**

4.1   Policy

The Corporate GIS underpins all services across the council and in particular it supports:

- The statutory planning system – Development Management and Development Planning.

- The maintenance of land ownership records

- The maintenance of the councils primary address database the LLPG (Local Land and Property Gazetteer.

- Public Access and Customer Contact Portal

- Neighbourhood and Landscape Management

- Transport Planning

- Spatial Analysis and Service Planning

- Asset Management

4.2   Resources and Risk

The total anticipated contract spend is £51,000 per annum and total contract value £255,000 based on current revenue there are no capital investment costs as the solution will be required to function on the councils existing virtualised computer infrastructure. This cost is covered by existing revenue budget.

Transfer to a system other than that currently used for mapping will incur RISK and cost. The impact on intranet and internet mapping will be significant, with a requirement to rebuild all links to existing mapping features. This will inevitably result in a period when mapping is not available to the Council website or internally to assist teams with service delivery. In particular the impact will be felt widely across Public Access.

Staff training in new skills to a level of competency required to work with new software be that the outcome is critical. In addition to the staff costs of skill training, other costs include the downtime while being trained and time taken to become proficient in new software. All this will further impact timelines, but is unavoidable and will need to take place prior to any work to reinstate mapping links.

Major Council databases that rely on mapping include Planning (Uniform), Environmental Health (APP Flare), Highways and Street Lighting (Confirm), NRSWA (Symology), LLPG, Capita One (Education) and the new Customer Contact Portal. Other applications also have a dependency across the authority. Any future plans to upgrade or replace these systems will have to be cognisant of the new mapping solution when tendering.

4.2.1 The Risk Assessment will be conducted in GRACE. This contract is required, as non-payment of maintenance will leave the Council without the tools to manage mapping information. The Council will not have the capability to serve information to internal desktop applications, PlanWeb intranet mapping or the Council's website. Service delivery that requires input from a geographical spatial search will not be possible. A significant risk for all areas conducting address based searches, in particular Planning, Public Access and the CCP

N	Capital	Y	Revenue	N	Accommodation
Y	IT	Y	Medium Term Plan	Y	Asset Management

4.3   Legal

This tender is required to enable continuity of service for the provision of the Milton Keynes Council Corporate Geographical Information System

This recommendation complies with MKC rules, UK and European legislation.

4.4   Other Implications

Y	Equalities/Diversity	Y	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
Y	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	Y	Crime and Disorder
Y	Carbon and Energy Policy				

Background Papers: or weblinks to the relevant information

Annex A – Breakdown of costs of the current corporate mapping system purchased in 2007.

Annex B – Available budget for 2012 Corporate Mapping Tender based on current revenue spend.