

Report to Cabinet

13 April 2022

Subject:	Award of contract for ICT Technology Hardware
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Maria Crompton - Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Director:	Neil Cox – Director of Business Strategy and Change
Key Decision:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Uresh Patel Uresh_Patel@sandwell.gov.uk Sue Knowles Sue_knowles@sandwell.gov.uk Andy Saunders ICT Service Manager andy_saunders@sandwell.gov.uk Dave Guest ICT Strategic Lead dave_guest@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given to authorise the Director of Business Strategy and Change and the Director of Finance - Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to approve the award of contract for providing ICT Technology Hardware for the period 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2025, with the option to extend for a further 12 months.
- 1.2 That an exemption be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action referred to in 1.1 above to proceed.



1.3 That the Director of Law and Governance – Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute any documentation necessary to enable the course of action referred to in 1.1 above to proceed.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 This report is seeking approval to delegate authority to award a contract for the provision of ICT Technology Hardware to the Director of Business Strategy and Change and the Director of Finance - Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources. The contract will be awarded through the Crown Commercial Services Framework RM6068, following a compliant further competition and evaluation process.

2.2 The contract award will allow for the purchase of new end user devices such as laptops, desktops, monitors, docking stations, mobile phones, tablets and other end user ICT peripherals. The contract period will be 3 years from 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2025 with an option to extend for a further 12 months.

2.3 The value of the new contract for the 3 -year period is estimated to be £4.5 million based on current hardware costs and forecasted future requirements. If the option to extend for a further 12 months is invoked the total value of the contract is estimated at £6m.

2.4 This estimated contract value assumes increases in ICT hardware requirements as a result of changes to work styles and the need for remote or hybrid working.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people	Awarding the Technology Hardware contract will enable ICT to purchase the right equipment for end users to deliver services and therefore the award of this contract supports all of the Corporate Plan objectives.
	People live well and age well	
	Strong resilient communities	
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods	
	A strong and inclusive economy	
	A connected and accessible Sandwell	

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The current ICT Technology Hardware Contract comes to end on 31 May 2022.
- 4.2 Invitation to Tender documents have been issued to all suppliers capable of providing the requirements of this tender under the Crown Commercial Service Framework agreement RM 6068. Authority is sought to delegate authority to the Director of Business Strategy and Change and the Director of Finance - Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to approve and award the contract and accept a tender for ICT Technology Hardware Contract. The contract will be awarded for a 3-year period from 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2025 with option to extend for further 12 months, following a compliant procurement exercise.
- 4.3 Over the next 3 years ICT will be replacing and updating end user devices, this contract will enable ICT to work with ICT hardware suppliers and establish best value.



4.4 Working with a ICT hardware supplier will give ICT good relationships with key technology vendors, ensuring Sandwell’s technical roadmaps are current and fit for purpose.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 A "do nothing" approach is not feasible, as this would result in ICT hardware orders being spread across multiple hardware resellers rather than having one single point of contact with dedicated account management.

5.2 The alternative approach is to go out to tender every time for every hardware order, however this reduces the opportunity for best value as orders are considered in isolation rather than strategically.

5.3 Without a hardware supplier it would not be possible to take advantage of free bonded warehouse storage, which has benefited Sandwell many times during the Covid-19 pandemic.

6 Implications

Resources:	The total value of the contract is estimated to be 4.5 million pounds over 3-year period with the option to extend for a further 12 months (1.5 million pounds per year). This will be funded from existing ICT revenue and capital budgets.
Legal and Governance:	The Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council’s Contract and Procurement Procedures will be adhered to.
Risk:	The corporate risk management strategy has been complied with to identify and assess the risks associated with the recommendations being sought. This has concluded that there are no significant risks that require reporting. Further measures will be put in place to ensure that the risks identified during the procurement process are considered and mitigated to levels within the council’s appetite for risk.
Equality:	No implications



Health and Wellbeing:	No implications
Social Value	Social Value will be considered during the procurement process

7. Appendices

None

8. Background Papers

None

