

Executive Member for Children & Young People's Services and Advisory Panel

4 September 2008

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services

York High ICT Procurement

Summary

1. The Council has recently tendered for the provision of ICT at York High School. The Council received responses from two suppliers and a total of four quotes. Officers are recommending that a tender other than the lowest cost tender should be awarded and therefore, in accordance with financial regulations, this item is being reported to the Executive Member and Advisory Panel (EMAP) for a decision.

Background

2. York High School is being refurbished and rebuilt in readiness for opening in January 09. The project did not initially include any refresh of the ICT equipment, however an audit demonstrated that most of the school's IT infrastructure was no longer fit for purpose. Additional funding was secured in March 08 to invest in a new ICT infrastructure.

Analysis

3. The Local Authority (LA) used the OGC (Office of Government Commerce) Framework (pre-tendered to the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) thresholds) to request quotations in order to ensure best value. The LA received responses from two suppliers and a total of four quotes. These are detailed in the confidential Annex 1.
4. Officers are unable to recommend acceptance of the lowest tender received, as it does not represent the best value in terms of quality or total cost of ownership. Officers consider that the tender received from Equanet, using Dell equipment, represents the best value overall and has the following advantages:
 - The PCs are being purpose built so represent a bespoke solution
 - The schools ICT support provider has extensive experience of supporting the platforms listed in this quote.

The above factors contribute to ensuring that this quotation has a lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) over its lifetime, even though the initial investment is higher than the lowest quote received.

5. The ICT equipment needs to be ordered in September to ensure that it ties in with the overall York High project build/refresh timeline in particular with the Mechanical and Electrical fitting for ICT equipment which begins a phased installation from early September.

Consultation

6. The Corporate Procurement Unit and York High School have been fully consulted during the procurement process and support the recommendation.

Options & Analysis

7. A. **Award the contract to Equanet** (Tender C Annex A)

This would provide a bespoke ICT solution for the school, specifically built for purpose and with a lower total cost of ownership as a result of the schools' ICT support provider's familiarity with the solution and as a result of the excellent warranty arrangements on these products.

- B. **Accept the lowest priced quote**

This would have a slightly lower initial cost, however the solution is not bespoke and the off the shelf product will need to be modified to meet requirements from day one of the install. In addition, the school and its ICT support provider are not familiar with the PC platform in this quote and this could contribute to delays in implementing a fully working solution.

Both options are affordable from the budget set aside for ICT within the project.

Corporate Priorities

8. The proposal contributes to the Directorate of Learning, Culture & Children's Services' (LCCS) objective to improve standards in school and to the overall corporate priority of improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the City.

Implications

9.
 - **Financial** – the financial implications are detailed in the report and Annex.
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – there are no HR implications.
 - **Equalities** - there are no equalities implications.

- **Legal** - there are no legal implications.
- **Crime and Disorder** - there are no implications of this nature.
- **Information Technology (IT)** – there are no implications for the Corporate IT department.
- **Property** – there are no implications.

Risk Management

10. The only known risks are those associated with any delay in the procurement of the ICT.

Recommendations

11. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to award the contract for ICT procurement at York High School to Equanet using the Dell solution (Tender C Annex A).

Reason: On the basis that the solution provides the best value for the school.

Contact Details

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Report Approved



Date 19/8/08

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial – Richard Hartle, Finance Manager, LCCS

Procurement – David Walker, Head of Risk, Insurance and Procurement Services, Resources

Wards Affected: *Westfield*

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Confidential Annex A – York High ICT Procurement – Company and Cost Details