

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET5 November 2020Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveHEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE – SERVER HARDWARE PROCUREMENT**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek exemption from tendering in accordance with Contract Standing Order 15 (iii) in relation to the procurement of Hewlett Packard (HP) server hardware directly from HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE (HPE). The hardware will be in the region of £150k, subject to final quotation, and will be funded from existing 2020 / 2021 approved capital funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that, in accordance with Contract Standing Order 15 (iii) the Cabinet approve an exemption from tendering to allow the procurement of HP server hardware to ensure a smooth transition from existing aging hardware which is nearing the end of its useful life and support contracts.

BACKGROUND

3. East Renfrewshire Council uses HP servers across all areas of technology to deliver critical ICT services to the Council, Education and ER Culture and Leisure Trust such as:-

- File and folder access for employees
- All ERC hosted line of business applications such as Carefirst, OHMS Housing, Servitor, Information @ Work etc.
- Email
- Intranet
- Print services
- Database services

4. Hardware lifecycle management is a key activity undertaken by ICT. This activity ensures technology is managed, maintained and supported through its working life. To ensure best value and fully leverage the investment in the technology, a standardised approach is required on the vendors and models of hardware procured.

5. HPE provide a number of proprietary tools for managing servers, viewing alarms, raising and tracking support contracts/tickets and updating software on their servers. The standardised approach to this ensures the minimum number of staff are required to maintain the servers utilising a single set of tools.

6. Any change of vendor to this core technology area incurs significant time and cost impacts with regards training, management tools and implementation, and best practice dictates no frequent change in this regard.

7. HP server hardware was previously available to the Council via Crown Commercial Service Framework RM3733 Lot Number 1. The term of the framework has now lapsed. Procuring this critical hardware from HPE via an alternative framework, is not currently an option.

8. Replacement of existing HP servers with new hardware is essential to support the phased replacement programme of the technology lifecycle to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. This is reinforced with ICT staff having the skills and knowledge of HP hardware to support the programme.

REPORT

9. The total cost of replacement hardware will be approximately £150k .Exact figures cannot be obtained from HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE until a procurement exercise is undertaken.

FINANCE & EFFICENCY

10. It is confirmed that provision for this expenditure will be met from existing budgets.

11. This proposal will generate additional demands on ICT and other staff resources. However it is confirmed that this can be managed within current resources.

CONSULTATION

12. The Council's approach has been validated by HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE, supported by ICT's internal technology specialists and a 3rd party hardware consultant.

CONCLUSION

13. In order to maintain the integrity, availability and security of ICT services to the Council, ICT must commence a hardware replacement programme. This ensures that the Council can offer re-assurance to our users and customers that every effort is being made to deliver a robust range of services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. It is recommended that, in accordance with Contract Standing Order 15 (iii) the Cabinet approve an exemption from tendering to allow the procurement of HP server hardware to ensure a smooth transition from existing aging hardware which is nearing the end of its useful life and support contracts.

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