

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

26 MARCH 2015

Report by Deputy Chief Executive

SCOTTISH WIDE AREA NETWORK (SWAN)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet that East Renfrewshire Council has joined the SCOTTISH WIDE AREA NETWORK (SWAN). SWAN is a public services network for the use of all public service organisations within Scotland. More than 4,600 sites will be connected to the initial network including schools, hospitals, GP surgeries, pharmacists and local Council offices. Key benefits include reduced costs, improved service and the ability to share data across organisations, fostering co-operative working.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that Cabinet note the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND

3. The 60 month contract (Tender Reference: F09 312) for the 'PROVISION OF TELECOM NETWORK FIXED LINE' that was awarded to Virgin Media Business plc will expire on the 30th November 2015.

4. The Chief Procurement Officer served formal notice to Virgin Media Business plc on the 18 November 2014 that this contract will expire on the 30 November 2015.

5. The Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN) is a result of the McClelland Review of Scottish Public Sector ICT Infrastructure and the recommendation of the delivery of a single public sector communications network infrastructure.

6. This Scottish Government initiative will enable much greater infrastructure sharing, collaboration and collaborative procurement of ICT networking and services capability across the Scottish public sector.

7. SWAN will deliver a single, holistic telecommunications infrastructure open for the use of any and potentially, all public sector organisations within Scotland. It will replace the existing approach where each public sector organisation design, develops, delivers and maintains their individual network infrastructure. As well as reducing procurement and operational costs. SWAN will open opportunities for information sharing and local and national participation and collaboration across public sector partners.

8. SWAN is managed at a strategic level by the Scottish Government and overseen by the SWAN Programme Board. These wider activities may include a number of projects, the first of which is the SWAN Network Contract, which is delivered by Capita plc as the main contractor. The SWAN Network Contract overall relationship is managed on behalf of the Scottish public sector by National Services Scotland (NSS).

9. The Head of ICT completed a review of SWAN in mid 2014 following detailed discussions with a range of network providers including Capita plc, Virgin Media Business plc, etc.

10. It was evident that the purchasing power of SWAN ensured that the end services being offered demonstrated value for money. In addition, SWAN provides the ability to develop, continually update and communicate a long term vision of network service provision.

11. The original four Vanguard members of SWAN are as follows:

- NHS NSS;
 - o All NHS Boards
- Pathfinder North;
 - o Argyll & Bute Council
 - o Orkney Islands Council
 - o Highlands Council
 - o Moray Council
 - o Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Pathfinder South; and
 - o Dumfries & Galloway Council
 - o Scottish Borders Council
- Education Scotland.

In addition, the following organisations have now joined SWAN:

- West Lothian Council;
- Skills Development Scotland; and
 - o Scottish Enterprise
 - o Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- SEPA.

A number of other organisations are now reviewing membership proposals including Inverclyde Council, Renfrewshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, etc.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

12. The current Council network provisioned by Virgin Media Business plc is based on ageing technology and requires to be upgraded as part of any new contract regardless of supplier. This investment has previously been built into the capital programme for 2015/2016.

13. Virgin Media Business plc has quoted for the provision of a new PSN / IPVPN network. The install charge for 62 circuits is £311, 867 with ongoing annual rental of £216, 878.

14. The SWAN install charge for 62 circuits is £271, 017.38 with ongoing annual rental of £168, 391.75. Additional one off and recurring savings will be delivered through SWAN - Value Added Services (VAS) where existing internal network components and services will be delivered via SWAN from 2016/2017 onwards. It is anticipated that the range of services available through SWAN will continue to grow meaning future savings for the Council.

15. Projected annual savings of £75,000 from SWAN have already been built into the 2015/16 – 2017/2018 budget proposals.

CONSULTATION

16. Consultation has taken place with the Chief Solicitor and the Chief Procurement Officer. The SWAN contract was signed by the Chief Solicitor on the 6 February 2015.

17. East Renfrewshire Council has now been allocated a seat on the SWAN Management Board. This will provide the Council with the ability to influence the future network service provision via SWAN.

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. It is recommended that the Cabinet note the contents of this report.

REPORT AUTHOR

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KEY WORDS

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