

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Procurement of IT Advisors for Fastershire
Date of decision:	26 th September 2018
Decision maker:	Assistant Director, Communities
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Herefordshire Council's Constitution (19 May 2017):</p> <p>Scheme of Delegation, Part 3: Section 7 – Officer Functions:</p> <p>3.7.5 Operational decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is within an approved budget • Is not in conflict with the council's policies, strategies or relevant service plans • Does not amend existing or raise new policy issues <p>The £25,000 value is within the Assistant Director's scope in the scheme of delegation</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	None. This is not a new service.
Decision made:	Award contracts to the 10 highest scoring bidders in response to the Invitation to Tender for the provision of Ad Hoc IT Advice to SMEs and Charities for Fastershire' for the provision of Ad Hoc IT advice sessions for the period of three years (commencing November 2018) at a cost of £25,000.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The Fastershire Broadband Strategy 2017 update was adopted in August 2017. Its vision includes boost business growth and achieve their potential.</p> <p>The Strategy includes a number of objectives to increase the infrastructure, awareness and demand for superfast broadband and its exploitation once it is available. As such, the Fastershire project includes an extensive business support programme called <i>FasterBusiness</i>.</p> <p>The FasterBusiness programme is designed to help SMEs get the most from fibre broadband, to innovate and ultimately become more competitive, by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bespoke support to help local businesses understand the benefits of broadband such as social media, online marketing, website design and development, ecommerce, software, hardware and data security • Digital tools to improve the way local businesses exploit ICT • The means to demonstrate the potential return on investment from high speed broadband adoption • Offers to help with the costs of exploitation and • Seminars designed to demystify aspects of digital and ICT <p>We require experts in the IT sector to deliver these business reviews</p>

	<p>and help SMEs to exploit IT to improve their competitiveness and growth potential.</p> <p>A budget of £25k has been made available to deliver these reviews over a 3 year period (commencing November 2018). A tender is to be issued on Procontract with a view to having a pool of 10 advisors on an approved list to deliver these reviews.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Budget has been allocated to deliver the objectives of the Fastershire Broadband Strategy 2017 from ringfenced funding, including funds from Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p>There is a small risk that the desired pool of 10 advisors is not procured but the project can still be delivered with fewer advisors.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>The alternative is to run operated the business support programme. However this will have the risk of not enabling businesses to maximise their potential. The council could employ staff directly, but through contracts enables greater flexibility and range of expertise.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	N/A

Signed..... Date: 26.09.18