

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Procurement of IT Advisors for Fastershire – Issue Contracts
<b>Date of decision:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2018
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Assistant Director, Communities
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	Herefordshire Council’s Constitution (19 May 2017) Scheme of Delegation, Part 3: Section 7 – Officer Functions: 3.7.5 Operational decisions 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 The £25,000 value is within the Assistant Director’s scope in the scheme of delegation.
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	None. This is not a new service.
<b>Decision made:</b>	Award contracts to the providers below for the provision of ad-hoc IT advice sessions for the period of three years (commencing November 2018) at a cost of £25,000: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Angel Core Tree</li> <li>• Empiric Partners Nepeta Consulting Ltd</li> <li>• Rather Inventive</li> <li>• SJ and AM Wilde</li> <li>• V8 Media</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	The Faster Business programme is designed to help SMEs get the most from fibre broadband, to innovate and ultimately become more competitive, by providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Digital tools to improve the way local businesses exploit ICT</li> <li>• The means to demonstrate the potential return on investment from high speed broadband adoption</li> <li>• Offers to help with the costs of exploitation and</li> <li>• Seminars designed to demystify aspects of digital and ICT.</li> </ul> <p>Experts in the IT sector with good communication skills were required to deliver these business reviews and help SMEs to exploit IT to improve their competitiveness and growth potential.</p> <p>A tender was issued and following the verification process, the Evaluation Panel recommends that the seven organisations, who applied to join the ad-hoc IT advice to SMEs and charities for Fastershire Approved Provider list, be admitted to the list.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/ legal/equality considerations:</b>	If a company is not available to run the advice or not part of their detailed expertise. This is why there are several provides on the preferred list.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	This approach means providers have the knowledge from industry or sector knowledge to deliver in depth and personalised IT advice to SMEs and would be unable to deliver this project without expert help.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	N/A

Signed..... Date: 16.11.18