

## Record of Operational Decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Metric Roaming Sim Cards for all parking machines
<b>Date of decision:</b>	1st February 2024
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Service Director –Environment and Highways
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	Economy and Environment Scheme of Delegation (13/10/2023) Use of a car parks and conditions which they are used Section 36
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	The council’s finance, legal teams and cabinet member have been consulted, where they are content with this decision.
<b>Decision made:</b>	Award contract to Metric Group Ltd for the 74 Metric Roaming Sim Cards at £3 per sim per month equating to £2,664 annually.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>A Nationwide 3G switch off of the EE network meant that in order for the card payment function to work on the parking machines the Metric Roaming sim card was needed. A network signal of over 50% needs to be available to process card payments. To ensure continuity of service to the public the Council made the decision to change to the Metric Roaming sim cards.</p> <p>All council parking machines are supplied by Metric Group Limited. The Metric Roaming Sim Card allows for the network with the strongest connectivity to process the card payment, meaning it has access to all of the networks. If works to switch to the Metric Roaming sim cards were not carried out, this would have resulted in the public being unable to pay for parking by card.</p> <p>Contract information, with the details of which machines are included in the cover, will be reviewed and re-signed on an annual basis as the overall charge is based on a per machine basis. This decision will cover that resigning up to the approved £7,992 over the 3 years.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	An exemption to the contract procedural rules have been approved on the basis that other suppliers cannot provide this service on these machines, and it is required to maintain the ability for card payments in car parks.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	The alternative was to not switch to the Metric Roaming sim cards, this is not recommended as the public would not be able to pay for parking using card payments. Resulting in only RingGo and cash payments being accepted. This may result in loss of income for the Council as the public may choose to use other car parks which provide card payments. This could also result in reputational damage due to card payment not working. A test was performed using the Council’s preferred provider O2, however the network conditions were not favourable.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed..... Date: 30.04.24