

CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION ON HEREFORDSHIRE CONNECTS - ACQUISITION OF THE PREFERRED TECHNOLOGY TO REPLACE THE CURRENT CLIENT SYSTEMS USED WITHIN BOTH ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE

**PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE & CUSTOMER SERVICES &
HUMAN RESOURCES, CHILDREN'S SERVICES, RESOURCES AND
SOCIAL CARE ADULTS AND HEALTH**

CABINET

21 FEBRUARY 2008

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider a report prepared in response to the recommendations made by the Strategic Monitoring Committee following the call-in of Cabinet's decision on the acquisition of the preferred technology to replace the current client systems used within both Adult Social Care and the Children and Young People's Directorate and the Committee's consideration of a consolidated report on the Herefordshire Connects programme.

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it will result in the Council incurring expenditure above agreed budgets for the service or function (shown as a line in the budget book) to which the decision relates but allowing for virements between budget heads and savings within budget heads of up to £500,000.

It was included in the Forward Plan.

Recommendation

THAT Cabinet consider the revised submission prepared in response to the recommendations made by the Strategic Monitoring Committee in relation to Cabinet's decision on the acquisition of the preferred technology to replace the current client systems used within both Adult Social Care and the Children and Young People's Directorate and the Committee's further recommendations in relation to its consideration of this issue and its consideration of a consolidated report on the Herefordshire Connects programme.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Akif Kazi on (01432) 261550 or David Powell on (01432) 383173

Reasons

Following the call-in of the decision made by Cabinet at its meeting on 13th December 2007 the Strategic Monitoring Committee made the following recommendations:

- a) That Cabinet should require a revised submission on the proposed replacement of the relevant client systems in the Adult Social Care and the Children and Young Peoples' Directorates setting out clearly and quantifying all costs (including fees) whether forecast or potential.
- b) That the revised submission referred to above be extended to demonstrate clearly respective responsibilities for: the identification of potential tenderers, the technical appraisal of tenders and judgment as to compliance of the tenders.
- c) The above submission further explains and justifies the decision not to abort the tender process and explains the basis for selection of OLM as a further individual tenderer and the exclusion of OLM from the first tender list.
- d) Assurances regarding data security and transfer arrangements and compatibility with current systems (if retention is considered) should be included in the revised submission to Cabinet.
- e) Neither the totality of this decision nor its place within the context of the Herefordshire Connects project was clear. To ensure proper, informed decision making, reports of this nature submitted to Cabinet in future should state clearly the dimensions of what is presented for approval and its place within the context of the overall project.
- f) Future reports to Cabinet requesting authorisation to proceed with a particular course of action such as an acquisition should state this explicitly in the title and should not merely be described as an update.
- g) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to revise the format of the Decision Notice template to clarify the meaning of the entry in the template headed "urgent decision", to make clear that this is a technical term having regard to the relevant Regulations and does not necessarily relate to the importance and urgency of a matter under consideration in practical terms.
- h) The inclusion of a second option in the Cabinet report did not approach the minimum standard of acceptable information. If alternative options are presented in Cabinet reports fully argued consideration is necessary; and
- i) Reports to Cabinet and all Committees should be expressed in clear, comprehensible English without jargon or unexplained abbreviations. Any statistical or financial information must be clear and arithmetically correct.

Considerations

1. Cabinet's decision on 13th December was:
 - (a) **Cabinet authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to sign the framework agreement with Deloitte;**
 - (b) **Cabinet confirm Corelogic Framework as the preferred solution and authorise the directors of Corporate & Customer Services and Resources, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and Director of Adult and Community Services, to proceed with this acquisition on a fixed price basis through the Deloitte framework agreement; and**
 - (c) **Cabinet receive assurance on budget savings in relation to the accommodation strategy**
2. In accordance with Standing Order 7.3.1 and the Scrutiny Committee Rules set out at Appendix 2 of the Constitution, Cabinet's decision on 13th December 2007 was called in by three Councillor (Councillors: PJ Edwards, TM James and RH Smith. for consideration by the Strategic Monitoring Committee.
2. The Strategic Monitoring Committee met on 31st January, 2008 to consider the call-in.
3. The grounds for the call-in were as follows:

That the decision as set out within its (a) + (b) and the now added (c) has been taken without given due consideration to the following –

- *Call in Item 1* - There is a need for a report on the whole of The Herefordshire Connects Programme, as requested by the Strategic Monitoring Committee. This is surely essential to provide Members with a clear understanding of where the programme now stands and how each proposal, such as that considered by Cabinet on 13th December, relates to the programme as a whole. The report requested by the Committee should be presented to it at the same time as the Committee considers the call-in of Cabinet's decision.
- *Call in Item 2* - The Cabinet Report Agenda Item 5 titled Herefordshire Connects Programme Update is not as such an update to The Connects Programme but is in fact a request for authorisation to proceed with an acquisition and should be titled as such.
- *Call in Item 3* - The Decision is listed as non urgent yet the section in the report titled risk (which should presumably read Risk Management mentions a Key Risk of 'external funding may be lost if the start date is delayed'
- *Call in Item 4* - The first Key Risk listed is unclear.
- *Call in Item 5* - The Programme Update has few or no target dates; simply writing 'asap' is not acceptable.
- *Call in Item 6* - The report raises questions over the propriety of the procurement process.
- *Call in Item 7* - The Report leaves the question of actual accommodation location & Network Capability open & with unquantified costings.

- *Call in Item 8* - the Financial Considerations section in the report indicates 'capital expenditure has been spread over 5 years yet the Summary of Costs only covers a 3 year period.
 - *Call in Item 9* - Capital Financing Cost boxes are listed within the Annual Revenue chart but not entered & the difference of £640k between the original Agenda Report & the subsequent Report figures requires an explanation.
 - *Call in Item 10* - No costs are estimated to cover possible 'backfilling of Social Workers duties to support the system's implementation' or staff relocation or system relocation if accommodation leases expire or potential 'add on' fees or Vat.
 - *Call in Item 11* - The changed heading of the Agenda item conflicts with the statement in the report where mention is made of 'no further additional work outside of the Social Care programme should be undertaken with the Herefordshire Connects partners in the current year until there is certainty that the programme will proceed'.
 - *Call in Item 12* - No understandable details are offered under Option 'B' within the Reported Alternative Options
 - *Call in Item 13* - Data security or transfer arrangement details and compatibility to current systems (if retention considered) could not be found within the Report.
4. In order to expedite matters the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member (Corporate and Customer Services and Human Resources) commissioned the preparation of a revised report on the proposed replacement of the relevant client systems in the Adult Social Care and the Children and Young Peoples' Directorates as recommended by the Strategic Monitoring Committee. This is attached at appendix 1.
 5. The original report to Cabinet on 13th December is attached at appendix 2.
 6. The draft minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Monitoring Committee on 31st January, 2008 are attached at appendix 3.

Financial Implications

The financial implications are as set out in the revised submission on page seven of appendix 1.

Risk Management

The risk management assessment as set out in the Cabinet report of 13th December, 2007 has been revised and appears in the revised submission appended.

Alternative Options

Cabinet could choose not to adopt any of the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

Alternative options to the proposed action were set out in the Cabinet report of 13th December. These have been expanded on in the revised submission.

Consultees

Not applicable.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revised Submission - Herefordshire Connects - Acquisition Of The Preferred Technology To Replace The Current Client Systems Used Within Both Adult Social Care And The Children And Young People's Directorate

Appendix 2 – Report to Cabinet – 13th December 2007 Herefordshire Connects Programme Update

Appendix 3 - Draft minutes of the meeting of Strategic Monitoring Committee – 31st January, 2008

Background Papers

- Document No. 1 – Consolidated Report on the Herefordshire Connects Programme – SMC 31st January 2008