

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: TENDER FOR SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE FOR PLANNING, BUILDING STANDARDS, PROPERTY CASEWORK AND ONLINE PLANNING INFORMATION SYSTEMS	
From: HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 30 OCTOBER 2012	Ref: SL/DB	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to commence a procurement exercise to re-tender for the support and maintenance for the Planning, Building Standards and Property's casework system (Uniform) and the Online Planning Information System (OPIS).

2. Background

- 2.1 Planning, Building Standards and Property currently make use of Uniform casework systems provided by IDOX Software Ltd. There is currently no contract for the current support and maintenance of these systems and it is funded on an annual basis at present.
- 2.2 In May next year the 5 year contract to provide support and maintenance for the Online Planning Information System, procured as part of the ePlanning programme terminates.
- 2.3 It is proposed to re-tender for the support and maintenance of the Online Planning Information System and secure a contract for Uniform at the same time as they are provided by the same supplier and both systems are fully integrated.

3. Tender Proposals

- 3.1 As the Uniform and OPIS systems are only supported and maintained by IDOX Software Ltd it is proposed to purchase the support and maintenance through a framework agreement that can be procured via the Local Government Software Application Solutions website.
- 3.2 It is proposed to have a 3 year contract with the option to extend, on a 1+1 basis, up to 5 years.

4. Financial Considerations

- 4.1 The current cost for the support and maintenance of both the Uniform and OPIS systems is £56,160 per year. The potential contract value could therefore be up to £330,000
- 4.2 Funding for this contract will be met from within the existing Planning and Development revenue budget for software maintenance and recovery of 10% of the total from Regeneration and Infrastructure and Design and Property services.

5. Corporate Considerations

- 5.1 These IT systems are integral to the case officer's ability to carry out their work. The provision of online systems is increasingly helping the public access information outwith office hours. Appropriate support and maintenance of these systems to minimise any downtime is therefore critical to the provision of an effective and efficient service.

6. Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approve the proposed purchase of support and maintenance for the Uniform casework and online planning information systems via the framework agreement outlined in paragraph 3.1; and
- (ii) note that the outcome of this tendering process will be reported to a future committee.



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Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact David Baxter Assistant Business Manager, Business Development on 01236 632516.