

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

20 February 2014

Report by Director of Finance

WEB CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (WCMS) & HOSTING SERVICES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek exemption from tendering procedures in accordance with Contract Standing Order 6 (iv), in relation to the provision of a Web Content Management System (WCMS) and hosting services from GOSS Interactive, for a period up to a maximum of 36 months from 1st December 2014 until 30th November 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that, in accordance with Contract Standing Order 6 (iv), a contract is negotiated with GOSS Interactive, who currently provide a Web Content Management System (WCMS) and hosting services to the Council, at a cost of £14,570 per annum, for a period up to a maximum of 36 months from 1st December 2014 until 30th November 2017.

BACKGROUND

3. Following a full tender exercise in 2009, GOSS Interactive was awarded the contract to provide East Renfrewshire Council with a new Web Content Management System (WCMS). This allowed the Council to migrate both its Intranet and Internet sites onto a single, modern platform. As part of this process the responsibility for technical ICT aspects and content development and maintenance was split between ICT and user departments. This allowed end users to have far more control over the publishing and currency of their specialist content, whilst freeing up ICT staff to concentrate on the technical design and development of the sites.

4. In addition to providing the software platform and relevant support, GOSS Interactive were also selected to provide hosting of the Internet site on dedicated hardware in their own data centre, thus providing a single point of contact and expertise for hosting and software services.

5. East Renfrewshire Council has made a significant investment in getting the Intranet and especially the public facing Council Internet presence to its current mature status. In recent independent tests East Renfrewshire Council was found to have the fastest responding website in Scotland. There is an ongoing exercise to continually update and improve website content. Any move to another platform would entail a significant programme of work to be undertaken jointly between ICT and all Council departments. This would have to begin immediately prior to the termination of the existing 12 month contract extension in November 2014.

6. As yet there is no framework for the procurement of a Web Content Management System (WCMS) and Hosting Services within Scotland Excel.

7. Following discussions between ICT, Legal and Procurement, it is recommended that a contract be negotiated and awarded to GOSS Interactive with the stipulation that before the end of this new contract the Council will go back to the market in whatever manner is consistent with the shared services ICT strategy in place at that time. A CPA would then be submitted at the appropriate time for the capital cost of moving to a new system.

8. In view of the reliance of the Council on the current system and the absence of an existing shared service framework, it is recommended that Cabinet approve the request for exemption from tendering to allow further negotiation with GOSS Interactive.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

9. There is no additional cost to the Council as a result of the recommendation contained within this report. Funding will be sought in due course for a replacement system, to be procured in line with any shared services frameworks in place at that time.

CONSULTATION

10. Consultation has taken place with the Chief Solicitor and the Chief Procurement Officer who, following investigation, have confirmed that due to special circumstances it would be appropriate to undertake a negotiated procedure with GOSS Interactive for the provision of a Web Content Management System (WCMS) and Hosting Services.

CONCLUSIONS

11. The approval to negotiate and award a contract to GOSS Interactive for the provision of a Web Content Management System (WCMS) and Hosting Services is considered essential for the continued efficient operation of the Council. Failure to award a contract will result in service disruption and the need for new development of Council web capabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. It is recommended that, in accordance with Contract Standing Order 6 (iv), a contract is negotiated with GOSS Interactive, who currently provides a Web Content Management System (WCMS) and Hosting Services to the Council, at a cost of £14,570 per annum, for a period up to a maximum of 36 months from 1st December 2014 until 30th November 2017.

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KEY WORDS

Web Content Management System (WCMS) and Hosting Services, Exemption, Special Circumstances