

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 3 MARCH 2025

REPORT ON: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM SOFTWARE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 49-2025

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.0 The purpose of this report is to present a sourcing strategy and seek approval to award the contract for purchase of geographic information system software licenses and service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (a) approves the purchase described, and delegates to the Head of Digital and Customer Services to make the purchase based on the sourcing strategy detailed in Appendix 1. The procurement route is specified in Section 4.8.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total cost of the purchase is £134,101 for a three year period from 16 April 2025 to 15 April 2028. This cost will be met from provision within the Digital and Customer Services budget. The cost for 2025/26 is £43,656, 2026/27 is £44,690 and in 2027/28 it will be £45,755.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's IT Strategy which was approved at the City Governance committee on 4 March 2024 (Article VIII of the meeting of the committee refers). The Council's IT strategy sets out to deliver secure, robust, and affordable IT platforms. Helping to enable digital services, mobile and flexibly accessible services with best value technology products and a cloud first approach.
- 4.2 The Council uses ArcGIS by Esri (UK) Ltd, as the geographic information system (GIS) technology. It is a geospatial software platform that allows the visualisation, analysis, collection and mapping of Council data. This tool is used across the Council to provide visual insights into our data to support decision making and improve outcomes.
- 4.3 The use of ArcGIS supports the Council's digital strategy that was approved at policy and resources committee on 15 May 2023. One of the strategy outcomes is to be technology and data enabled. "Data will be used to inform decision making, enable joint services and achieve better outcomes for our citizens." Data can play a transformational role for service design and drive efficiencies throughout services.
- 4.4 ArcGIS is used by Council services for many purposes, such as identifying flood risk areas, modelling supply and demand for services, maintaining roads and other infrastructure, service optimisation and public consultations like green transport corridors.
- 4.5 The Council's open data portal is provided by the ArcGIS platform. The tools within the platform support the Council in achieving the open government action plan and providing transparency, empowering communities through open data and ensuring the Council is data-driven.
- 4.6 The ArcGIS software currently operates from the Council's data centre and the cloud. The new contract will allow for further migration of services to cloud to increase scalability, resilience and reliability.

4.7 Alternative GIS software platforms have been considered. ArcGIS by Esri (UK) Ltd is the only one that can provide the range of tools that the Council requires. Esri are one of the market leaders and are a well-established provider of GIS.

4.8 The contract will be awarded directly to Esri (UK) Ltd via the Crown Commercial Services G-Cloud 14 framework agreement for supply of cloud software and infrastructure.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There are four standard risks in any procurement and for public sector regulated procurements, a fifth is added, that of the procurement exercise itself breaching the public contract regulations and leaving the Council open to a legal challenge:

Key Risks			
Description of Risk	Probability (L/M/H)	Impact on DCC (L/M/H)	Actions required to manage Risk
Commercial Risk - That either the price objectives are not achieved up front or there are other costs that arise during the contract and diminish the overall benefits.	Low	Low	Benchmarked costs and requirements are known as there are existing licenses in place.
Technical Risk - This concerns the difficulty in being able to specify the desired outcome and on the market being unable to deliver to the specification.	Low	Low	Continuation of current software service has no technical risk.
Performance Risk - This concerns the ability of suppliers to perform consistently over the life of the contract to deliver the planned benefits.	Low	Low	Current supplier will be maintained. The service provided is known and well established.
Contractual Risk - Being able to remedy the 's shortcomings in the contractor's performance without severely damaging the contract and about avoiding reliance on the contracted supplier as the contract develops.	Low	Low	Contract management will be put in place as part of the ongoing service from the supplier.
Procurement Risk - where a procurement is found unsound in law, through the public procurement rules.	Low	Low	A compliant framework will be used to award the contract directly to the software supplier of choice.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Council Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

ROBERT EMMOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

3 MARCH 2025

APPENDIX 1

SOURCING STRATEGY	Purchase of geographic information system licenses.
PROJECT NUMBER	
PROJECT INFORMATION	The contract will be awarded directly to Esri (UK) Ltd via the Crown Commercial Services G-Cloud 14 framework agreement for supply of cloud software and infrastructure.
PROPOSED CONTRACT DURATION	16 April 2025 to 15 April 2028.
RECOMMENDATION	(a) It is recommended that the Committee: approves the purchase described, and delegates to the Head of Digital and Customer Services to make the purchase based on the sourcing strategy detailed in Appendix 1.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	The total cost of the purchase is £134,101 for a three year period from 16 April 2025 to 15 April 2028. This cost will be met from provision within the Digital and Customer Services budget. The cost for 2025/26 is £43,656, 2026/27 is £44,690 and in 2027/28 £45,755.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no issues.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	IT Strategy as approved by the City Governance Committee on 4 March 2024 (Article VIII of the meeting of the Committee refers). Digital strategy as approved at committee on 15 May 2023.

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