

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Azure Landing Zone
Decision Maker:	Director of Technology and Innovation, Glyn Peach
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Paul Middleton
SLT Lead:	Kathy Freeman, Strategic Director of Resources
Report Author and contact details:	Sophie Onyekes 07985 427 558 Sophie.onyekes@newham.gov.uk
Policy context:	<p>This project directly contributes to the Connections: Using technology to improve the way we live objective of the Corporate Plan.</p> <p>The following outcomes will be delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering digital improvements to enhance the customer experience and enable self-service <p>Ensuring that good customer experience is at the heart of our Digital Service design and the wider delivery of public services</p>
Financial summary:	The Landing Zone contract is estimated at £124,153 for a 12 month contract
Relevant OSC:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place. X

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Director of Technology and Innovation is recommended to agree to:

The award of a service contract at cost of £124,153 to Version 1 Solutions Ltd, for the provision of setting up and configuration of new landing zones, via Lot 3 of the G Cloud 13 Framework, for a term of 12 months commencing on 04/09/23 until 04/09/24.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3 Section 3.4 Powers of Second Tier Managers

Contract powers

- (a) To approve an award for all contracts below a total contract value of £500,000 but above the EU Threshold for Supplies and Services.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This non-key decision recommends the award of a contract to Version 1 Solutions Ltd, to build 3 cloud landing zones in Azure. The contract will be awarded via the G-Cloud 13, Crown Commercial Services Framework.

This tender is for a new Azure landing zone for Newham, Havering and OneSource. The landing zone will be the future platform used to host the organisations' IT services and applications. The Councils will be migrating services and applications to the new landing zone from on-premise infrastructure and existing Azure sites.

The Councils currently host systems and applications on-premise with a few applications hosted in the cloud. The current cloud infrastructure, hosting applications, is not suitable to host all the organisations' systems and applications. Using the current cloud platform would take longer and cost more to remediate than to start from scratch.

The primary objective of the project is to remediate the existing environment and conform to industry best practice and Microsoft recommended architecture.

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The Councils will build and configure 3 landing zones for ICT for each of the following organisations: Newham; Havering and; OneSource. ICT conducted soft market testing and Version 1 Solutions Ltd. offered the best value for money.

The project brief was approved on 31/07/23 which allowed the Councils to access the G-Cloud 13 framework to procure services from an appropriate supplier. The request to the single supplier to provide the Councils with a proposal went live on 07/08/23 and the customer provided their proposal on 16/08/23. The evaluation panel met on 17/08/23 and 18/08/23. The panel was satisfied that the proposal met the specification criteria and was within budget.

The Supplier has been identified through a compliant GCloud13 Framework and the cost of completing this project is £124,153.

The duration of the call-off contact will be for 12 months, starting 04/09/23 and ending in 04/09/24.

The implementation will take 9 weeks in total. The Councils are also purchasing a post implementation support package.

Proposals (including reasons for proposed decisions)

1.1 The ICT Team used the GCloud 13 Framework to identify the suitable supplier with capability to implement the delivery requirements.

1.2 In compliance with the GCloud 13 Framework process, the following actions were applied:

- Applied the GCloud 13 Framework process to identify suppliers.
- Created short list using the keyword search in-line with requirements resulting in 1 potential supplier with the capability to meet the requirements.
- The keywords used were: Design workshops, landing zone build, knowledge transfer
- Reviewed the supplier's service definition in-line with the implementation requirements.
- Supplier capability was met by – Version 1 Solutions Ltd.

1.3 On this basis Version 1 Solutions Ltd was selected as the preferred supplier.

The GCloud Framework has a number of suppliers from whom to select and is considered to represent the best value compliant route to market for the services required for this piece of ICT work.

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Councils have considered doing nothing, but the Councils do not have the appropriate platform available to host cloud applications and servers.

The Councils considered using a different framework for the procurement, but the G-Cloud 13 framework was the most appropriate for the Councils' needs.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

Not applicable

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Sophie Onyek

Designation: Project Manager

Sophie Onyek

Date: 29th August, 2023

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has power to procure and enter into the contracts under s111 of the Local Government Act 1972 which permits the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

The Council also has a general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything an individual can do, subject to any statutory constraints on the Council's powers. None of the constraints on the Council's s.1 power are engaged by this decision.

The contract value is £124,153. The proposed contract value is below the applicable Public Procurement threshold for contracts for services (£213,477) stipulated in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as amended ("PCR"). Procurement and award of the contract are not caught by the full PCR regime however, they must comply with the PCR general principles of transparency, equality of treatment, non-discrimination and proportionality. The contract has been procured via the G Cloud framework, which is PCR compliant. The general principles are therefore met.

Procurement and award of the contract must also comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules 18.2, 18.3, 18.5.

As set out in this report, officers have confirmed that these requirements have been met.

For the reason set out above, the Council may award the contract to Version 1 Solutions Ltd.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The total cost of the contract is £124,153 (£62,077 per borough) which is broken down into the following milestones:

1. Low level design signed off: £59,615 – Week 4
2. Deployment completed: £50,000 – Week 9
3. Implementation Support package: £14,538 – Week 9

With a start date of September, it is anticipated the entirety of this one-off spend will fall into financial year 23/24.

This contract will be funded from each council's network refresh capital budgets having met the conditions of an intangible asset.

Havering will lead the procurement and recharge 50% of the costs to Newham. Each council's landing zone is being built to the same specification hence the allocation of costs on a 50/50 basis.

The development of suitable cloud landing zones is a pre-requisite of the ICT modernisation programme which will follow and which will deliver the return of ICT services back to their sovereign boroughs from oneSource. As this work progresses, there will be the opportunity to reduce the amount of on-premise costs being incurred in the future, albeit these savings are unlikely to manifest until 25/26.

This contract will be funded from the following capital cost codes:

Newham: GI0125

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Havering: C38050

Havering will lead the procurement and recharge 50% of the costs to Newham.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There is no requirement to conduct an EQIA as this decision has no impact on any vulnerable groups.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable Environmental and Climate Change implications and risks. Environmental and climate change requirements have been taken into account as part of the tendering process and all suppliers will be required to be compliant with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (WEEE).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed Glyn Peach

Designation: Director of Technology and Innovation

Signature: 

Date: 29th August, 2023

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____