Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer

Hyper Converged Infrastructure System Procurement Approval of Contract Award

Title:	**Hyper Converged Infrastructure System Procurement Approval of Contract Award**
Divisions Affected:	All / List
Key Decision:	No
Reason Key:	NA
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Committee decision – Cabinet 24 September 2019 Min ref: 158/19 Interim Procurement Forward Plan – authority delegated to relevant Executive Director to make contract award decision

Summary

A Hyper converged infrastructure system is a core component of Surrey County Council's IT & Digital Core infrastructure architecture strategy.

The council owns two data centres, one in Redhill and a disaster recovery site in Guildford. Within these facilities are a number of servers including networking and storage devices which over the next three years will be reaching end of life.

End of life means there will be no ongoing support or physical hardware maintenance from the current suppliers for the existing hardware and therefore a procurement is required to replace this hardware with a suitable and modern alternative. Failure to carry out this action would present a significant risk to Surrey's business and critical systems such as front line systems (e.g. co-ordination of social workers and case management systems) and back office operations (e.g. staff salaries, supplier payments etc).

As part of the planning and due to technological developments in the wider IT industry a strategy entitled the Core Infrastructure Architecture (C.I.A) has been developed by the council which takes a different view of how Surrey will provide infrastructure services far beyond its current form, affording the council an opportunity to do things differently in a more cost effective and simplified way.

The council's C.I.A denotes strategic directives for a number of areas however, relevant to this report is the concept of moving away from traditional 'Converged' server infrastructure and as part of the replacement programme moving to a 'Hyper-converged' system.

Hyperconvergence or Hyper Converged Infrastructure (HCI) is the current industry standard in the context of providing high performing computer services within data

centre environments.

Traditionally, these services have been deployed by purchasing Storage Area Networks (SANs, e.g. large amounts of hard disk), Servers (e.g. high-end computers that perform advanced tasks) and Networking (e.g. components that allow for SANs and Servers to talk to each other and computers on the network).

Each component usually requires separate investment and the carrying out of individual procurement exercises. These components are more complex to implement and maintain, don't allow for simple 'scaling' (e.g. the ability to easily add capacity without a degree of risk) and cost more to purchase.

HCI collapses the SAN, Servers and Networking into a single unit which is a more efficient means of providing data centre services.

Following extensive research, pre-procurement soft market testing, high level selection and technical product analysis and review of the success of established Hyper Converged infrastructure in other local authorities, it has been concluded that Nutanix provide the best in class enterprise services platform which is fit for purpose for the needs of the council.

The award following mini-competition of a supply contract to Specialist Computer Centre Ltd, a value added reseller under the HealthTrust Europe (HTE) Information Communication Technology Solutions Framework for Lot 1 provides the most economically advantageous and complaint route to procure this Nutanix hardware and software.

The Procurement Plan in Background Documents was approved via the Strategic Sourcing Board on 8th November 2019.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

1.   Contract for supply of Hyper Converged Infrastructure System shall be awarded to Specialist Computer Centre Limited.

Reasons for Decision:

This award represents the most economically advantageous outcome for Surrey County Council to deliver the key components of the Core Infrastructure Architecture and provides a scalable, resilient platform supporting every critical system and customer in the council.

| Decision taken by: | Leigh Whitehouse, Executive Director of Resources. |

Decision taken on:	27 November 2019
To be implemented on:	4 December 2019

Alternative options considered

Details of the Procurement options considered are within the Procurement Report included in the Background Documents.

Summary of any financial implications

Details of the financial implications (contract charges, budget and savings) are within the Procurement Report included in the Background Documents.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

Procurement and IT & Digital have consulted with:

Anna Kwiatkowska, Head of Procurement – SCC
Matt Scott, Chief Information Officer, IT & Digital
The delegation of powers required the following approvals which have also been undertaken:

Dr Zully Grant-Duff, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support

Signature: See embedded email in Background Documents

Anna D'Alessandro, S151 Officer – Director of Finance

	Exempt:
Background Documents **Procurement Report (T1133) Hyper converged System procurement**	Yes
Approval email from Leigh Whitehouse, Executive Director, Resources	Yes
Approval email from Dr Zully Grant Duff, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support	

Yes

Yes