

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 22 JANUARY 2024

REPORT ON: MOBILE VOICE AND DATA CONTRACT

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 11-2024

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the appointment of Vodafone Ltd. to provide Mobile Voice and Data Services for a further 2 years.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) agree to award the contract for the Council's mobile, voice, and data services for an initial two-year period with the option to extend for a further two years to Vodafone Ltd;
- (b) remit the Head of Customer Services & IT to appoint Vodafone Ltd as the supplier for mobile voice and data services; and
- (c) note the financial savings associated with this contract.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Current estimated annual spend is £107,148.

3.2 Estimated value of the new contract is £62,000 based on current usage. This will generate an estimated saving of £45,000 in a full year.

3.3 Annual funding for the Council's mobile voice and data services is available from existing budgets.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 This report supports the Council's IT Strategy which was approved at Policy and Resources Committee on 18 February 2019 (Report 81-2019). The Council's IT strategy sets out to deliver digital services, mobile and flexibly accessible services through cost effective solutions.

4.2 The Council's use of mobile technology has grown significantly since the COVID pandemic. Mobile voice and data services are required to support hybrid and mobile working, increased use of video calls and collaboration.

4.3 The current contract for mobile voice and data services ends in March 2024. The current supplier is Vodafone Ltd. A new contract is required to ensure continued access to these services.

4.4 Scottish Procurement has established a single supplier framework agreement with Vodafone Ltd for these services. Call off contracts from this framework will be for a minimum period of 24 months and a maximum period of 48 months. Staying with Vodafone for another 2 years will avoid costs for migrating to a different supplier.

4.5 The cost of all the tariffs on the new contract will reduce the monthly charges compared to the current contract. An annual saving of £45,000 is expected on the new contract. This is based on the current number of voice and data connections. A new unlimited tariff is being introduced at a very low cost. This will allow further savings to be made as mobile broadband services can replace fixed line broadband.

4.6 No procurement exercise is required as a competitive process was carried out for the single supplier framework. The Council will enter into a call-off contract under this framework agreement.

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 CONSULTATIONS

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

ROBERT EMMOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

DATE: 27 DECEMBER 2023

JACQUI KOPEL
HEAD OF CUSTOMER SERVICES & I.T.