ITEM No …10………..

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE 2024

REPORT ON: IT SECURITY FOR LAPTOPS

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 177-2024

1.0   PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1   To seek approval for the purchase of licenses for security of laptops and tablet devices.

2.0   RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1   It is recommended that the Committee:

(a)   agree to the purchase of licenses for the security system;

(b)   delegate authority to the Head of Customer Services & IT to purchase licenses required for the security system

3.0   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1   Cost of license purchase is £200,000 for 5 years of licensing.

3.2   The Executive Director of Corporate Services advises this cost will be met from IT capital budget for 2024/25

4.0   BACKGROUND

4.1   This report supports the Council's IT Strategy which was approved at the City Governance committee on 4th March 2024 (Report 62-2024). The Councils IT strategy sets out to deliver secure, robust, and affordable IT platforms. Helping to enable digital services, mobile and flexibly accessible services through a cloud first approach.

4.2   In recent years we have seen significant changes in the way Council staff work. The use of laptops to support hybrid working has changed the demand on IT services. We have seen a similar increase in the use of laptops and tablet devices in schools to support digital learning.

4.3   Significant investment has been made in laptops for corporate staff. Laptops provide a flexible device to work from anywhere, providing increased mobility and flexibility. There has also been a changing demand for laptops and mobile devices in schools for learning and teaching.

4.4   To further maximise the investment in laptops and ensure a secure and flexible service is provided, a new security solution is required to protect the laptops and provide secure access to applications and data.

4.5   The current security system is approaching the end of the contract and needs to be replaced. This system does not provide the functionality required to support the large number of laptops and tablet devices. The new system will provide the necessary security enhancements and integrate with other security products to provide end to end protection. It will also provide improved reporting and visibility for IT staff to respond to security incidents. This will ensure the system meets requirements for the next five years.

4.6   The future strategy is to use more cloud services. The new system supports secure access to current IT systems and future cloud services. New security models have developed in recent years to support hybrid working and provide the scalability and flexibility required for cloud

services and changing demand. The new system will support these new security models that will be an important part of IT security for the future.

4.7 Committee report 334-2023 was approved to provide fibre internet and security services for schools. Part of the tender exercise for this service included an option for the security system licenses required for the laptops and tablet devices. As this option was described in the initial tendering exercise, it can now be utilised to to purchase the licenses from the same supplier, which was Commsworld.

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:

Description of Risk	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.	Costs and requirements are known as it is an existing contract and service.
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	New technology but skills and knowledge already exist
Performance Risk – This concerns the ability of suppliers to perform consistently over the life of the contract to deliver the planned benefits	Only supply of licenses
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.	Existing contract being utilised.
Procurement Risk – where a procurement is found unsound in law, through the public procurement rules	Previous procurement exercise has been carried out.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

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

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

JACQUI KOPEL
HEAD OF CUSTOMER SERVICES & IT

ROBERT EMMOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES   **7 JUNE 2024**