

Report

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Report to:	Housing and Technical Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	5 May 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	Award of Debt Management Contract
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Provide Committee with an update on contract award for the Debt Management Contract and re-tender process

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Debt Management contract be re-tendered with a commencement date of around 1 August 2010.

3. Background

- 3.1. A report to Committee on 17 February 2010 recommended the appointment of bcwgroup plc to the Council's Debt Management contract for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013.
- 3.2. However, in view of a material change in circumstances, the Chair, in terms of Standing Order No 17, has agreed that further consideration be given to the matter.

4. Legal Challenge and Re-tender Process

- 4.1. Subsequent to Committee approval but prior to contract award, the terms of the Council's Invitation to Tender were subject to a legal challenge by an unsuccessful tenderer. In order to avoid a protracted legal process and the associated operational impact, it is recommended that the Council re-tender the Debt Management Contract.
- 4.2. In the interim period, Legal Services have advised a short term extension of the existing Debt Collection and Sheriff Officer contracts, as both current contracts have provision for an extension. An offer to extend for one year but with a 2 month early termination clause has been accepted for both contracts.
- 4.3. The re-tender will adopt Open Tender Procedure, with a view to contract commencement on or around 1 August 2010. A report will be submitted to Committee in September advising of the outcome of the retender.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. None.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The award of the original contract was anticipated to offer annual savings of £0.180m. It is anticipated that this savings target can still be achieved and an update on the financial implications of the re-tender process will be provided to Committee in September.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. None.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals within this report.

- 8.2. All necessary consultation has been undertaken with Legal Services.

Lindsay Freeland

Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

6 April 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Accountable, effective and efficient

Previous References

- ◆ Minutes of Housing and Technical Resources Committee 17 February 2010

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Contract Documentation

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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