

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

15 MARCH 2012

SUBJECT:	<i>MOBILE TELEPHONE CONTRACT</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</i>
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<i>COUNCILLOR JEFF GREEN</i>
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of a variation to the contract with Vodafone for the provision of mobile telephones and data services. This variation was accepted under delegated authority and will realise a saving to the Council of £67,500 per annum.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The contract with Vodafone is provided via the Government Procurement Service (GPS) framework contract for the provision of mobile communications to the UK public sector. These frameworks have been subject to competition within the European Union and as such comply with the requirements of European procurement law for public services. The Government Procurement Service was established from the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), with the objective of reducing the cost of goods and services across the UK public sector by aggregating requirements and increasing buying power.

2.2 Vodafone has recently reduced its tariffs within the GPS framework and it is this variation to contract that has been accepted under delegation. Wirral currently has 2,100 active connections, which comprise a mix of mobile telephones, mobile telephones with e-mail provision, mobile broadband devices and data only connections. The current total annual cost is £218,500, which will reduce to £151,000 under the revised terms.

2.3 Work continues on revising the mobile telephone policy and centralising some of the administrative processes, which includes the electronic processing of invoices and automatic allocation of costs for each connection to the appropriate cost centre. A further report will be submitted to Cabinet once these changes are finalised.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 That the use of mobile communications will significantly reduce over the two year term. This is unlikely since the trend is towards more agile working, which will require increased use of mobile communications.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Re-tendering the contract via a competitive process within the GPS framework. This was discounted since the suppliers tariffs are published to the public sector and analysis indicated that Vodafone offered financially advantageous solutions. A further consideration was the resource requirements to replace over 2,000 devices, the infrastructure connecting them to public services and potential service disruption if published telephone numbers needed to be changed.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Procurement Unit has been involved in the process. European procurement law and Contract Procedure Rules have been complied with.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are no implications for voluntary, community or faith groups.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 There is no corporate budget for mobile telephony. Each department is responsible for funding service provision from within departmental budgets. The annual expenditure is currently £218,500.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes but since the proposal is a variation to an existing contract and does not impact on equality relating to service delivery, the workforce, community or any other aspect of equality, an EIA is not required.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no carbon reduction or environmental implications.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no planning or community safety implications.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That Members agree a two year extension to the Vodafone contract and associated savings of £67, 500 per year.

13.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

13.1 The variation to contract was accepted to realise an annual saving to the Council of £67,500.

REPORT AUTHOR: Geoff Paterson
Head of IT Services
telephone: (0151) 666 3029
email: geoffpaterson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date