

10 February 2023

Report Title:	MAINTENANCE, SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF CCTV CAMERAS & ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT
Report of:	STRATEGIC MANAGER – COMMUNITY SAFETY

REPORT SUMMARY

This report requests that the Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods, Safety & Transport agrees to award contract for Maintenance, Supply & Installation Of CCTV Cameras & Associated Equipment for Wirral Council assets to Synectics Security through the Eastern Shires Procurement Organisation (ESPO) framework 628_19. This will be for a three-year term and is to commence subject to contract on 16th February 2023. This will support future digital improvements for the Council.

This is a key decision.

This decision affects all wards in the Borough.

The decision supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan by fitting into the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) referenced in the Wirral Plan. Within the MTFP one specific aim is that value for money is delivered for the services we provide. This contract aims to achieve value for money by the avoidance of inflated call off rates which would be the default position if no action is taken.

The report supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan themes: Safe and Vibrant Communities - where our residents feel safe and are proud to live and raise their families and Active and Healthy Lives - Working to provide happy, active and healthy lives for all, with the right care, at the right time to enable residents to live longer and healthier lives.

RECOMMENDATION

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods, Safety & Transport is recommended to approve the award of a contract for a term of 3 years for Maintenance, Supply & Installation Of CCTV Cameras & Associated Equipment, for Wirral Council assets to Synectics Security (Synectics Security Limited – Registration Number 05831231) through the Eastern Shires Procurement Organisation (ESPO) framework, on the basis of a 3-year contract.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 This framework provides a compliant route to market for the procurement of Maintenance, Supply & Installation Of CCTV Cameras & Associated Equipment for all public sector bodies. Core network equipment supplied under the previous contract is covered under guarantee for a further three years and award of this contract to other vendors would incur additional costs in the event of equipment failure. This is due to a third party being required to remove the failed equipment and return to the manufacturer for repair while providing a suitable temporary replacement, all of which would be a chargeable service. As the vendor and manufacturer of the network hardware, Synectics Security are able to provide replacement equipment direct to site instead of operating on a return to base basis, which would not attract the additional mark-up cost.
- 1.2 Currently due to the spend on the previous contract, orders for repairs and maintenance are not able to be progressed, the further integration by Merseyside Police is hampered and a recent grant allocation for investment in CCTV for 2022/3 is unable to be spent.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Do nothing – This would mean that Wirral Council would be unable to purchase new CCTV equipment or procure maintenance & repair services for current equipment.
- 2.2 Choose a different framework provider or run a competitive tender exercise. The contractor has an extensive working knowledge of the Council CCTV network; having been successful on the previous competitive tender exercise to supply and install a new CCTV Control Room and upgrade the CCTV network to digital transmission and recording. Much of the back-end equipment supplied under that contract is under warranty for a further three years and awarding maintenance & break/fix responsibility to another contractor would result in increased cost to the authority in the event of hardware or software failure. By purchasing services from a framework provided by a public sector owned professional buying organisation the Council can guarantee obtaining value for money in the services it purchases. All suppliers listed on the framework have been assessed by ESPO during the procurement process for their financial stability, track record, experience and professional ability.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Prior to January 2023 maintenance, supply and installation of CCTV related equipment was carried out by Synectics Security under contract. This contract was for two years with an option for two one-year extensions and an initial contract value of £600,000. Following multiple successful bids for grant funding from the Safer Streets Grant (Home Office) and Town Deal Accelerated Grant the anticipated spend against this contract surpassed the initial contract value and a variation request was approved raising the contract value by the maximum permitted percentage of 50% to £900,000.
- 3.2 In 2022 further funding was made available from the capital programme, Milton Pavement HQ Project and Merseyside Police for further development of the CCTV

network resulting in all cameras being upgraded to digital transmission, additional CCTV cameras being planned for installation in the public space areas around the new Milton Pavement build and Wirral Council's CCTV network being integrated into the Merseyside Police network allowing access to Wirral cameras within Police premises by Police officers and staff.

- 3.3 All of these successful projects and funding bids have resulted in a current spend with Synectics Security of £850,000 at the end of Year 2 of the contract. Finance colleagues advise that the contract value is unable to be raised further due to already being varied by a 50% increase so exercising the option for a 12-month extension to the contract is unwise. Therefore, a new contract needs to be established with a realistic anticipated spend.
- 3.4 The Council's Community Safety Team continues to bid for external funding to extend and improve the CCTV network and has recently secured funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and anticipated further grant funding, which will provide further opportunities during the lifetime of this contract.
- 3.5 Equipment purchased during the previous contract is still under warranty from the vendor, Synectics Security, so a direct award of this contract is appropriate to avoid additional charges to the authority if we were to award the contract to a third-party contractor and equipment required service because of hardware or software faults or failures (as outlined in 1.1 above).

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Synectics Security has populated a pricing schedule upon request and this forms part of the Framework document. Synectics competence to deliver goods and services in an efficient and cost-effective manner is demonstrated by their inclusion as an approved supplier for the ESPO framework following a competitive tender exercise conducted by ESPO specifically for framework 628_19.
- 4.2 The anticipated total contract spend across the three year term of the contract is £850,000; funded by a mixture of revenue and capital budgets, investment by Merseyside Police and confirmed and anticipated external grant funding. This value is in the region of spend against the previous contract.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This is a UK Procurement Law Compliant framework from which the Council can grant a direct award of a contract for the services sought.
- 5.2 The award of contract will be underpinned by a formal contract which will be drawn up in conjunction with the Council's Legal Team.
- 5.3 Under the Council's 'Scheme of Delegation – Neighbourhoods Directorate' the following powers have been delegated to the Assistant Director in consultation with the Head of Commercial Procurement:
To sign up to new EU compliant frameworks procured by another public body, a local authority consortium, a national agency which is recognised as carrying out procurement for the benefit of public bodies or another local authority as part of a joint purchasing arrangement of which the Council is permitted to use in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2015

5.4 It would therefore be appropriate for the Assistant Director for Neighbourhoods, Safety & Transport to authorise.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct staffing ICT or asset implications arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There is a risk that the contractor – Synectics Security could experience financial difficulties and not be able to fulfil its duties to the Council. However, Synectics Security is one of the UK's largest independent systems integrators with 45 years trading and multiple accreditations including National Security Inspectorate Gold status as an approved security contractor.

7.2 Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations will be adhered to in appointment of the contractor and consideration of any notification to the enforcing authority.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Meetings between Asset Management and Procurement have been held since September 2022 to discuss the route to market. The Senior Category Manager has advised of the route to market. To gain pricing engagement with a framework provider took place.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

9.2 This report has no direct impact on equalities.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The contractor has stated that they are committed to present Wirral with additional ways to reduce its Carbon Footprint and have a robust recycling policy ensuring that all waste generated is segregated between waste to landfill and waste for recycling. They employ the services of an external recycling specialist who collects waste and transfers it to a dedicated waste segregation facility for further waste segregation and recycling. All site generated waste is segregated and recycled. The contractor also employs a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) specialist who collects electrical waste and again transfers it to a WEEE waste segregation / recycling facility. The contractor's vehicle fleet consists of environmentally friendly low emission Hybrid Vehicles operating dual Petrol / Diesel and Electrical motors.

10.2 The contractor will provide electronic e-billing, assisting in the reduction in paper invoices, credits and statements.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no community wealth implications arising out of this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Chris Ellis
Technical officer
email: chrisellis@wirral.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Framework Agreement for Security and Surveillance Equipment/Services - Agreement Ref: 628_19

Framework Schedule 3 – Form of Contract and Call Off Terms

Security and Surveillance Equipment/services Framework 628 Issue 20 User Guide

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	