



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Approval to seek tenders for a 'first-responder' out-of-hours emergency response service
Date:	25 th January 2008
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Relevant background information

Members may be aware that a number of Council properties, approximately 140, have intruder alarm systems which are centrally monitored by staff in the City Hall CCTV Control Room. When alarms are activated at any of these sites BCC Control Room staff contact and deploy the first-responder, normally an external key-holding company whose staff visit the premises and advise the Control Room on necessary action. This can include summoning the emergency services, securing the premises, notifying the building occupier of the alarm activation and/or calling out the appropriate property maintenance staff or contractors to secure the building or make safe damage done to property.

Because separate arrangements have been made by the various BCC property occupiers over recent years, there is currently a multiplicity of call-out arrangements which makes it difficult to introduce a standardised approach to providing the service and controlling its costs.

The Security Unit, in liaison with the various BCC building occupiers, is therefore seeking to develop a more co-ordinated approach to the provision of this service, which involves aggregating the multiple contracts into one. This allows for more efficient procurement, which will result in lower overall costs and better management and co-ordination of the service.

Key Issues

Tenders will be evaluated on a number of cost and quality criteria. The contract will be awarded for a one year period, with an optional extension of one year.

Resources Implications

Financial

It is anticipated that the value of the contract for two years would be **£70,000**.

Human Resources

There are no direct HR implications in respect of this report.

Asset & other implications

The intruder alarm response service is essential to ensuring the physical integrity of those Council properties that have no manned guarding provision.

Recommendations & Decisions

The recommendation is that Committee approves an invitation to tender for the supply of an emergency response service.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents attached

None.