



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	To seek approval to tender for a new framework agreement for the supply of core and edge network equipment.
Date:	24 th October 2008
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Salmon, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Head of Information Services Belfast

Relevant Background Information

In 2006 the Council entered into a framework agreement with a supplier for the supply and maintenance of 'core and edge' network equipment. This equipment is required to provide a network service both at the centre and periphery of the organisation.

The Council supports computer systems located at various sites across Belfast. The ISB site in Gloucester Street is the centre of computer operations. All sites that form part of the current data network are connected to ISB. Additional sites are likely to be connected as required and additional high-speed links may be introduced to establish resilience.

Equipment supplied via the Agreement will provide connectivity for the following:

- (i) The Edge – the peripheral / user equipment (PCs, printers etc)
- (ii) The Core – the infrastructure that links all sites, servers and edge equipment

The Council has established a strategic arrangement to progressively upgrade the network to take advantage of current and future technological developments and provide for all data, voice and video applications. A rolling refresh of the Core and Edge network has been taking place since the agreement was put in place in 2006. It is hoped to continue this process by providing a call off arrangement whereby network equipment can be purchased in a timely fashion.

The framework agreement is due to end in November and a new agreement is required. This is a particularly important framework if permission is given to implement a new telephone system and ensure that the network equipment is in place to accommodate it.

Key Issues

Resource Implications

<u>Financial</u>

The nominal value of the contract to be let over three years is £150,000. Provision is made for this amount in the capital programme.

<u>Human Resources</u>

None

<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>

None

Recommendations

Permission to seek to create a framework agreement with suppliers to supply the Council with its core and edge network equipment and to maintain and support the equipment.

Key to Abbreviations

Documents Attached
