

<b>Report to</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of meeting</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities, Lead Member for Health and Social Care, and Lead Member for Education, Children and Families / Corporate Director: Social Services and Education
<b>Head of Service</b>	Heads of Adult Social Care and Homelessness; Education and Children's Services; and Corporate Support: Performance, Digital and Assets
<b>Report author</b>	Corporate Director: Social Services and Education and ICT Business Partners
<b>Title</b>	Replacement of the Social Care Information Management System – Contract Award

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1. Cabinet approved Denbighshire's participation in a procurement process for a replacement social care information management system based on the Business Case presented to its meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This report seeks authorisation to award a contract to the successful bidder.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1. To seek approval for the contract award and continued participation in the national Connecting Care programme.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

That Cabinet:

3.1. approves the Contract Award report attached as Appendix two.

3.2. Continues to support Denbighshire's participation in the national Connecting Care programme.

## 4. Report details

- 4.1. Further to the Cabinet report of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024, Denbighshire, as part of a cluster of the six north Wales authorities advertised the opportunity to contract for a social care information management system with a second cluster of authorities. The advertisement was managed by Rhondda Cynon Taff.
- 4.2. Tenders closed on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and a local evaluation process took place internally. The scores from that process were taken forward to a regional moderation session on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 4.3. A further moderation session with the other cluster took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and both clusters' scoring was similar and we were able to reach consensus on those which varied. This means that both clusters will seek to award contracts to the same successful bidder.
- 4.4. To date, each authority has been participating in the programme on a 'no obligation' basis, but we have now reached the point where we need to decide whether to award a contract to the preferred supplier. The current timeline shows that RCT will be advising the bidders of the outcome on 24<sup>th</sup> October and the outcome of the discussions and selection process remain confidential and commercially sensitive until then.
- 4.5. The current timeline sees contracts awarded on 5<sup>th</sup> November following a 10-day standstill period.
- 4.6. Contracts awarded as a result of the tender process will have an initial term of 7 years, with the option to extend in 2-year intervals up to a maximum of 21 years. Each authority will award its own contract and will be responsible for its own contract management arrangements.
- 4.7. A summary of the costs for the tender is included in appendix one which is an updated version of the table presented to Cabinet as part of the Business Case.
- 4.8. A draft copy of the Contract Award report as required by the Contract Procedure Rules is available at appendix two.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

5.1. The replacement of the Social Care Information Management System will contribute to the following themes within the Corporate Plan:

- A healthier and happier, caring Denbighshire
- A learning and growing Denbighshire
- A fairer, safe and more equal Denbighshire

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1. Costs are included in Appendixes one and two.

6.2. There is a high level of confidence that Welsh Government will make some financial contribution towards the costs of the system, and we are currently working with the WLGA on a national business case to underpin the bidding process. However, we can fund the costs involved in this procurement with funding from the Social Care Transformation Fund should any separate Welsh Government funding not be forthcoming.

6.3. We will report back to Cabinet at a later date with an updated business case and progress report.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1. The replacement of the Social Care Information Management System does not require a Well-being Impact Assessment because it is replacing one system with another. However, following implementation of the new system it is envisaged that Local Authorities will work together to explore future opportunities to develop the system to enable direct interaction with citizens. Should this be the case then DCC would work with the national Connecting Care Programme to develop a Wales-wide Well-being Impact Assessment.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. The Business Case will be presented to the Capital Scrutiny Group.

8.2. DCC is a member of the WLGA Connecting Care Local Government SRO Advisory Group whose aim is to provide expertise, guidance, and decision making to ensure the voice of local government is represented appropriately, and its requirements are met, in the implementation of the national Connecting Care Programme.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. As set out within section 6 of the report a reserve has been set aside to fund the one-off costs associated with the implementation of the new social care information management system set out in Appendix 1. As timescales become clearer the increase in recurring revenue budgets as set out within Appendix 1 will need to be included within the Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. There is a detailed risk register contained within the Business Case which will be updated in due course.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

11.1. s111 Local Government Act 1972

11.2. s151 Local Government Act 1972

11.3. Rule 2.7.2 Contract Procedure Rules