

REPORT: Executive Board Sub-Committee

DATE: 6 September 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment and Development

SUBJECT: Purchase of CCTV Surveillance Equipment

WARDS: Boroughwide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the temporary waiver of Financial Standing Orders in relation to the acquisition of limited values of CCTV surveillance equipment up to 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that

(1) Financial Standing Orders relating to the supply and installation of CCTV security equipment to a total value of £125,000 be suspended until the end of 2010 and the work be placed with Technology Solutions Ltd. of Rawtenstall at the discretion of the Operational Director - Highways, Transportation and Logistics, though not on a guaranteed basis.

(2) The option to use Financial Standing Orders be retained for the supply and installation of CCTV security equipment, to be used at the discretion of the Operation Director (Highways, Transportation) as the situation demands.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Council's main town centre security CCTV system was acquired over ten years ago, with the initial project being tendered in accordance with standing orders and won by Technology Solutions Ltd. of Rawtenstall.

3.2 Having won the first contract for installation of the basic CCTV security system and control room, Technology Solutions Ltd. have been invited to tender for a range of extensions to the original system as new camera units and other equipment have been installed at extra locations and the system has grown from 12 initial cameras to over 40. The firm have always won the work with a single exception and even in this one case, due to unresolved technical problems they had to be brought in to complete another contractor's work.

3.3 In October 2005 Technology Solutions tendered for and won a term maintenance and repair contract for the CCTV system which will expire at the end of 2010.

3.4 In January 2007 Executive Board Sub-Committee agreed to waive purchasing standing orders in relation to Technology Solutions Ltd. being awarded the work to install a wireless communications link from Widnes to the CCTV control room at Runcorn Town Hall in the value of £48,494.

3.5 Technology Solutions Ltd. are major contractors to several other authorities in the area, including Manchester City Council. Over the years the firm have been unstinting in the assistance and advice they have provided without charge in a very specialised, technically advanced and fast evolving area where rival firms tend to come and go regularly.

3.6 Given their extensive knowledge of and commitment to this Borough acquired by working in the area for many years and their complete understanding of the existing CCTV security system, it is believed Technology Solutions Ltd. are in a unique position to be able to supply and install new equipment at minimal cost. Having one contractor working on such a technologically advanced system offers advantages in that should maintenance issues arise in the future there will be no "that's not our bit of kit" issues between multiple suppliers and they have already won the maintenance contract in a tendering competition.

3.7 The area of CCTV security is one of constant technological change and expansion. Technology Solution Ltd. have this financial year provided free estimates, feasibility studies and technical advice on a number of projects without any guarantee the schemes will necessarily be carried through.

3.8 The request to waive standing orders to a total work limit of £125,000 up to the end of 2010 represents an average annual value of less than £30,000. For any higher value works or larger projects the use of existing Standing Orders is retained.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

5.1.1 Tendering supply and installation of limited amounts of CCTV equipment would lead to an overall increase in costs through administrative overheads, tender document production and tender process handling for what is a virtually a known result. Continued Council access to free estimates, feasibility studies and technical advice could be strengthened if Technology Solutions Ltd. were assured of their position for a reasonable period.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Failure to accept the recommendation carries a very high risk of increased overall costs for future small CCTV security projects.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background information held in the Traffic Section, Environmental Services, Grosvenor House, Halton Lea, Runcorn. Contact S.Johnson, ext. 3010.