

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING – 17th NOVEMBER, 2010

EXTENSION OF E-PLANNING CONTRACT WITH IDOX GROUP

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet to authorise the Head of Planning and Economic Development to negotiate extension of the existing ePlanning contract between East Ayrshire Council and IDOX group plc

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council are committed to the provision of ePlanning Services as a Partner of the Scottish Government ePlanning Programme. The Programme is designed to support the recent changes in Planning legislation involving 34 local planning authorities.
- 2.2 The implementation of ePlanning systems have been completed in phases to allow submission of Planning Applications and Appeals online adopting a process change from paper based records to electronic documents. Each planning application record, associated plans and documents can be viewed online and allow members of the public to make online representation by viewing Online Planning Information.
- 2.3 The final phase of the ePlanning Programme is to deliver the statutory Development Planning services online in accordance with the Scottish Government Planning Modernisation Agenda as reported to Cabinet on 1st April, 2009.
- 2.4 Delivering Local Development Plans online will allow agents, developers, consultees and members of the public access to view interactive local plans mapping and policy information online and to allow them to make online representation to the Council. This will assist the public consultation process of plan development where architects, developers, citizens and community groups can interact with the local plan process more effectively.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The contract for the first two phases of the ePlanning IT programme was awarded to IDOX group and the Council have entered into an Agreement with IDOX to supply, support and maintain the existing ePlanning systems. At this time IDOX are now maintaining all Planning and Building Standards back office IT and ePlanning web services including web mapping.
- 3.2 To implement the final phase IDOX group have now offered to extend the existing ePlanning contract to implement the ePlanning Online Development Plans at a substantially reduced cost from £55,000 to £24,990. This offer is made on the basis that most of the required infrastructure is already in place and IDOX can utilise existing ePlanning software and web mapping systems.
- 3.3 Corporate IT are satisfied that this is the most efficient approach to delivering this service considering;
- (i) IDOX have expert knowledge of the Councils Planning IT systems as maintenance and support contractor
 - (ii) IDOX will utilise existing hardware and ePlanning web services
 - (iii) The IDOX Online Development Plans system is a proven system currently in use at 24 other planning authorities in Scotland.
 - (iv) No other supplier is in a position to install systems to integrate with the existing ePlanning systems at East Ayrshire Council as defined by the Scottish Government contract

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Funds of £25,000 have been previously earmarked within Neighbourhood Services balances for this purpose with spend anticipated in 2011/12

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no personnel implications

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services will require authority to extend the Online Local Development Plans contract as an addendum to the main end user agreement under Section 20(2) of the Council's Standing Orders. IDOX is the only supplier of ePlanning systems as specified by the Scottish Government programme.

6.2 There are no policy implications.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The implementation of the final phase of ePlanning will support the preparation of Local Development Plans. The Local Development Plan assists in achieving targets contained within the Community Plan.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 If the system is not implemented East Ayrshire Council will not meet the national objectives of the Scottish Government ePlanning Programme to deliver the statutory development planning service online.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agrees:-

to authorise the Head of Planning and Economic Development to negotiate an extension to the contract with IDOX group in terms of item 20(2) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering to implement the final phase of the national ePlanning project to deliver the statutory development planning service online.

Elizabeth Morton
Deputy Chief Executive/
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

3rd November 2010 (MH)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1 Cabinet report dated 1st April 2009 – "Update on Modernising the Planning System"

Anyone wishing further information should contact Karl Doroszenko, Development, Planning & Regeneration Manager, Tel: 01563 576751 or Margo Houston, Technical Support Manager, Tel: 01563 576766

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