

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET 5 MAY 2010

PURCHASE OF AN ON-LINE CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION SERVICE

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to purchase an online Construction Information Service from IHS (Global) Ltd, Willoughby Road, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8FB.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2005 East Ayrshire Council entered into a contract with Barbour Index for the supply of on-line technical information for a number of Council Departments. In 2007 Barbour Index advised that they were withdrawing from the market for Construction Information Service and could not fully fulfil their contract.
- 2.2 This left IHS (Global) Ltd as the sole supplier of on-line Construction Information Service and a three year agreement was signed.
- 2.3 IHS provides an on-line database of more than 26,000 construction documents used by Asset Improvement Service, Planning and Building Control and Roads and Transportation Service, in the delivery of their front line services. It contains full text copies of British and other national standards referenced in Building Regulations, design manuals and national specifications, Eurocodes used for building and structural engineering, model contract documents, direct access to online services of Architects Journal, New Civil Engineer, Construction News, subject guides, briefings, news, reviews and technical information and guidance publications for Scottish regulations.
- 2.4 As these documents are held on line and updated directly by IHS, user departments can be confident they are using the current version of any document, simplifying Quality Assurance procedures and eliminating the need for Departments to maintain their own library of up to date documents with associated staff and storage costs.

3 CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 Asset Improvement Service, Planning and Economic Development and Roads and Transportation Service have a joint need for an on-line Construction Information Service and currently share the cost of this service which is Internet based. All users have been contacted to confirm they still have a need for this service.
- 3.2 The current cost for the on line Construction Information Service is £10,268 per annum based on a three site agreement. The current arrangements expire in April 2010.

4. COST OF THE SERVICE FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS

4.1 Based on a two site agreement the cost for the service has been quoted as:-

- Year one 2010-11 = £9,018
- Year Two 2011-12 = £9,289
- Year Three 2012-13 = £9,567.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council's standing orders in relation to contracts (paragraph 20 (1)) require Cabinet approval to be sought before tender negotiations can take place with a single contractor. IHS (Global) Ltd is the sole supplier of this service in the United Kingdom.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The cost of this service will be met from existing budgets within the three user services.

8. COMMUNITY PLAN / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Without this service the Council will be unable to access the up to date technical information required to exercise duties which could have a detrimental effect on service delivery.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that:

- i) Cabinet authorises the Head of Roads and Transportation to negotiate a three year agreement with IHS (Global) Ltd for the provision of an online Construction Information Service; and
- ii) Otherwise note the report.

Elizabeth Morton
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JB/LP
6 April 2010

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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