EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CABINET REPORT – 20 APRIL 2016

RISK MANAGEMENT CENTRE COMMUNITY ALARM MONITORING SYSTEM

Report by Depute Chief Executive (Safer Communities)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek the approval of Cabinet for the Head of Housing & Communities to enter into negotiations with Chubb Fire and Security Limited T/A Chubb Community Care in respect of a proposed one year extension of the current support and maintenance contract for Community Alarm receiving equipment within the Risk Management Centre at Council Headquarters and Ross Court with the option to extend for a further 1+1 years in terms of Paragraph 21(2) of the Council’s Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

BACKGROUND

2. At the present time, the Council has a contract with Chubb Community Care for the ongoing maintenance and support of the Community Alarm receiving equipment within the Risk Management Centre at Council Headquarters. The contract is due to expire on 11 May 2016.

3. The Risk Management Centre commenced operation in May 2008. Following a fully compliant competitive procurement exercise Chubb Electronic Security Systems Ltd (now Chubb Community Care) were awarded the contract to supply and install the Community Alarm receiving equipment which included the software component of the system. The contract awarded was in respect of the supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance for an overall contract period of five years which was extended on 11 May 2013 and as detailed above, is due to terminate on 11 May 2016. The Disaster Recovery Centre at Ross Court, Galston was upgraded in February 2016 and will remain under warranty until March 2017.

PROPOSAL

4. Notwithstanding the imminent conclusion of the existing contract term for maintenance and support of the system, there is an ongoing requirement to provide maintenance cover to ensure continuity of service to the elderly and vulnerable users of the Community Alarm Service.

5. That being the position the Council would appear to have three options to ensure that support for the Community Alarm Service be maintained namely:

   1. To embark upon a new competitive tender exercise to identify a new operator for the existing system;
2. To enter into negotiations with the existing contractor to continue with
the support and maintenance of the system based on a new contract;
or
3. To embark upon a new tender exercise for the supply, installation,
commissioning and future maintenance of a new system.

Embaroking on a new short term contract will allow the Service to evaluate new
systems and digital technology as and when available ensuring that the most
appropriate systems are employed within the Risk Management Centre.

6. An assessment of these potential options has recently been concluded that the
option of seeking to negotiate a new maintenance and support contract should
be preferred. The equipment installed at the outset of the contract is not at the
end of its operational life and accordingly it would be inappropriate to proceed
with Option 3. In respect of Option 1 initial assessment has concluded that the
likelihood of another entity being in a position to maintain and support a
bespoke Chubb system is unlikely. Accordingly it is proposed that the option to
enter into negotiations with existing contractor for a new maintenance and
support agreement would be the solution which would deliver not only the
ongoing operational backup required for this essential system but also Best
Value in financial terms. During the course of the proposed one year extension,
the Risk Management Centre will work with colleagues in the Corporate
Procurement Team to develop a commodity strategy to consider the various
options in more detail, the strategy devised will determine if a re-tender exercise
will be required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. Preliminary enquiries as to the likely costs of a one year with a 1+1 year
extension option have been undertaken. The likely costs to be incurred are:

- 2016 – 2017 = £10,634.00
- 2017 – 2018 = £15,826.00
- 2018 – 2019 = £15,826.00

8. These indicative costs compare favourably with those incurred over the last
three year period notwithstanding that they can be met from existing budgetary
 provision. 2017-2019 costs reflect equipment returning to maintenance
following warranty period at Ross Court.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. As detailed above in terms of paragraph 21(2) of the Council’s Standing Orders
Relating to Contracts Cabinet approval is required in respect of the extension
of any existing contractual arrangement. There are no additional legal
implications arising from the proposal contained within this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

10. Nil.
COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

11. The Risk Management Centre is central to the Improving Community Safety theme of the Community Plan through the monitoring of Community Alarm systems to the elderly and vulnerable.

12. In addition, the monitoring of selected Tele Care and Tele Health Care devices is carried out via this system. The equipment also supports the Lone Worker Protection equipment for Council employees. Fire and Intruder Alarms for council properties are also monitored by this equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. It is recommended that Cabinet:

i) Agree the proposal to enter into negotiations with the existing contractor to continue with the support and maintenance of the Community Alarms Monitoring System as set out at paragraph 6.

ii) Otherwise note the content of the report

Chris McAlavey  
Depute Chief Executive (Safer Communities)  
6 April 2016  
CMCA/KK

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: Katie Kelly, Head of Housing & Communities

Anyone wishing further information please contact: Katie Kelly, Head of Housing &Communities. Telephone 01563 576598 or e-mail: Katie.kelly@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.