

RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

17 JUNE 2004

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE PROCUREMENT

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ABSTRACT

This report recommends that information technology hardware be procured through the use of the Office of Government Commerce GCat framework

1 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report and approve the procurement of information technology hardware through the Office of Government Commerce's (OGC) procurement framework known as GCat.

2 CURRENT POSITION

Information technology hardware e.g. PCs, printers, laptops and file servers are currently procured via the Council's Framework Agreement. This agreement was subjected to EU tendering procedures in 2001 and is due to expire on 31st August 2004.

The procurement of hardware has been the subject of a Best Value Management Review. This review highlighted the number and variety of hardware items which require to be supported by the Department of Information Technology. It also noted that in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness that the Council (a) procure equipment from what is known as Tier 1 manufacturers i.e. Dell, HP/Compaq and IBM and (b) use GCat to procure the equipment.

The Tier 1 manufacturers are those that offer additional functionality with their hardware especially with the software that comes bundled as standard. This software would assist the department in reducing the impact on their resources created by user support calls and reduce the time spent on installation of new/replacement equipment.

There is no annual fee to allow procurement through GCat which offers rapid access to a greater choice of Prime Contractors and products whilst being fully compliant with EC procurement procedures. GCat allows the council to deal direct with Prime Contractors or use the services of a Value Added Reseller should this best suit our needs. Angus Council has been part of the GCat Agreement for a number of years but it is only now that it is considered a viable alternative to the Council's current Framework Agreement due to the new pricing structure recently introduced following tendering by the OGC.

Making use of GCat would save time and effort by IT staff who are involved in managing and monitoring the current Framework Agreement. OGC manages and monitors the EU Tender Compliance, prices and suppliers' performance. It also has facilities to allow the council to carry out on-line tendering, ordering and order tracking if required. The Director of Information Technology will discuss with the Director of Finance the issue of electronic ordering.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 **HUMAN RIGHTS**

There are no direct human rights implications arising from this report.

6 **CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive and the Directors of Finance and Law and Administration have been consulted on the terms of this report.

A Greenhill
Director of Information Technology

17.06.2004

NOTE

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.