

Public Station Wi-Fi Rollout - Award of Contract

Date of meeting 3 November 2023

Date of report 10 October 2023

Report by Director of Finance & Corporate Support

1. Object of report

To recommend the Committee approves the award for a five-year contract for the installation, maintenance and operation of public Wi-Fi at SPT's Subway and Bus Stations (Buchanan, Hamilton, East Kilbride and Greenock) to Westica Communications Ltd with the option to extend for a further five years.

2. Background to report

Public Wi-Fi connectivity services were available in all Subway stations, excluding tunnels and included cellular connectivity (2G/3G) at five stations (Hillhead, Buchanan, Partick, Govan and St Enoch.) These were managed by a provider through a cost neutral commercial model, which is no longer available in the market due to the Electronic Communication Code (ECC). The challenges caused by an ageing infrastructure, including an 11-year-old wireless system with multiple failures, an outdated cellular network emphasise the need for modernisation and improvement of wireless connectivity within SPT's transport system to effectively meet passenger demands.

To further understand the current marketplace, a soft market engagement was undertaken to obtain professional advice on the purchase of upgraded Wi-Fi. To ensure consistency of customer service and to take advantage of economies of scale, the scope of the project was extended to include SPT's major Bus Stations.

3. Outline of proposals

3.1 Scope of Services

- Removal of redundant Wi-Fi equipment, including cabling and associated hardware from Subway stations.
- All Wi-Fi solutions must have the ability to be switched off at each location.
- The Wi-Fi should meet the latest standard in performance, security and encryption.
- The successful contractor will provide option of removal of the Wi-Fi equipment installed as part of this project including cabling and other associated hardware.
- The contractor will provide a full managed solution that includes all aspects of maintenance and software licensing.
- The contractor will arrange the survey of all sites prior to installation.

3.2 Tender Process

An open tender process was undertaken to ensure maximum leverage in the market. The tender was advertised on 29 June 2023 through Public Contracts Scotland website (PCS-

T). In total 32 organisations downloaded the ITT and a total of six bids were received by the closing date of 29 August 2023.

Bidders were evaluated based on a blend of technical (40%) and commercial (60%) criteria to determine most economically advantageous tender.

All tenderers were invited to two site visits to view the bus and subway environments. Two bids failed the qualification phase and were disqualified at this stage.

The following table outlines a summary of the price and quality evaluation scores:

Supplier Name	Quality Score	Price Score	Total Price + Quality	Ranking
Westica Communications Ltd	37	60	97	1
North SV UK Limited	32	44	76	2
Rapier Systems Limited	27	42	69	3
Wifinity Limited	40	19	59	4

The submission from Westica Communications Ltd successfully demonstrated their capability to deliver the technical and quality aspects of the scope. The price submitted for the works was £505,469 and was within pre tender estimates and the existing capital budget provision.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to approve the award of contract for the public Wi-Fi to Westica Communications Ltd in the sum of £505,469 over five years, with the option to extend for a further five years.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>The contract will be awarded subject to the terms of SPT's Invitation to Tender documentation, including the terms and conditions stipulated therein.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>The proposed costs are within the existing capital and revenue budgets.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>SPT staff will manage and oversee implementation of the contract.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>Westica Communications Limited has a carbon reduction plan to minimise impact. Electronic waste recycling processes will be in place for equipment changes.</i>

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