Summary

In February 2011 the Community and Children’s Services Committee agreed that a Mental Health Grant of £174,000 could be used to cover capital set up costs for the procurement of a new IT based recording system for Children and Adult Social Care. The Committee agreed to progress the procurement under the Westminster Framework.

The original timeline for full implementation was January 2012 however this was not met due to delays in Westminster completing their procurement process as a result of the developing Tri-borough relationship.

The two organisations that met the Westminster Framework requirements were Core Logic Ltd and Azeus Ltd. The current provider, Northgate Information Systems, was invited to submit a revised business plan however this was not forthcoming and the process proceeded without their engagement.

In September 2012, a mini competition between the two organisations was undertaken.

The process involved several preliminary meetings and demonstrations with both providers, to ensure that they were able to meet the specific and unique needs of the City of London within the context of the Westminster Framework.

Formal written submissions, and a presentation from each provider, were subsequently evaluated by social care practitioners, IS and Chamberlains. The final evaluation was weighted 60% quality and 40% cost with Core Logic Ltd scoring higher overall.

The procurement of the new Children and Adult Social Care Recording System will reduce the annual costs of the current systems from £56k per annum to £18k per annum.
This report updates the Committee on the process to procure a new system and confirm that Core Logic Ltd have been appointed as the new supplier for the system.

Implementation of the new system will commence with immediate effect, with a proposed Go Live date of May 2013.

**Recommendations**

To note that following the mini competition, Core Logic Ltd has been appointed as the new supplier of the Children and Adult Social Care Recording system.

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**Main Report**

**Background**

1. Since 2002 the Department of Community and Children’s Services has operated two IT software systems for children and adult social care supplied by Northgate Information Systems. The Children’s database is called the Integrated Children’s System (ICS) and the Adult’s system, although using the same database, has a different user front end called SWIFT.

2. Whilst the two systems use the same database they are not integrated. The systems were implemented in a very basic way with no provision for financial data, no interface with the corporate financial system (CBIS) or implementation of workflow (a process by which the system guides the user through the system ensuring they complete all the necessary data fields and obtain the required authorisations).

3. The procurement of a new system would enable annual savings to be made against the current costs, as well as realising improved organisational efficiency due to an improved recording system that facilitated effective workflow, and allowed staff to spend less time recording the same information in different parts of a service user’s file.

4. The current annual costs to run the systems are £56k.

5. As reported to Committee in February 2011, Westminster City Council lead on the framework procurement project for both adult and children’s social care systems. The Westminster Framework agreement has set prices and models for two providers, Core Logic Ltd and Azeus Ltd.
Current position

6. In September 2012 Core Logic Ltd and Azeus Ltd were invited to enter a mini competition. Both were given opportunities to set out how they could meet the needs of the City of London within the Westminster Framework agreement and the City of London budget framework.

7. The mini competition involved an evaluation of the 2 submissions by City of London social work staff, IS Division staff and Chamberlains. There was also a formal presentation from both companies. The evaluation was weighted 60% quality and 40% costs with Core Logic Ltd scoring higher overall.

8. An implementation project board has been established, with membership from staff of the Department of Community and Children’s Services, IS and Chamberlains. Core Logic Ltd will also be on the project board. The board will be chaired by the Assistant Director People and will oversee the implementation of the new system which will commence mid November 2012 until May 2013.

Financial

9. Under the last Comprehensive Spending Review the City of London received a three year (2008/09 to 2010/11) allocation of capital funding which included elements for Social Care of £5k per annum and Mental Health of £53k per annum. The only restriction on the allocation was that it had to be spent to fund capital expenditure and unspent allocations could be carried forward between financial years. This provided funding of £174k to support the procurement of the new system.

10. Core Logic Ltd schedule of costs, as submitted as part of the mini competition, included the following:

   • Software Licensing Costs £93k
   • Implementation Costs £80k

   Annual maintenance costs will be £18k making an annual saving of £38k.

Timescales

11. The implementation phase will start immediately with a proposed Go Live date in May 2013.
Legal Implications

12. The contracts for both the Children’s and Adult’s Social Care Recording systems will be terminated sequentially to tie in with the development of the fully hosted system.

HR Implications

13. There are no HR implications.

Strategic Implications

14. This project fits under the ‘supporting our communities’ theme of the City Together Strategy. In particular, it contributes to the following objectives:

- To enhance services for older people to enable them to enjoy greater independence and better health for as long as possible.
- To enhance services and outcomes for children and young people, including support for vulnerable children and their families.

15. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and there is no negative impact on any equality target groups.

Consultees

16. The Chamberlain and Comptroller & City Solicitor have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Conclusion

17. This report has set out the background and process to the procurement of a new Children’s and Adult’s Social Care Recording System. As a result of the mini competition process Core Logic Ltd has been selected as the preferred provider of the new system.

18. Implementation will commence immediately with the new system going live in May 2013.

19. Background Papers:

   Community & Children’s Services Committee Bid Report February 2011

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