



## Digital Hardware Refresh (Phase 2) – Award of Contract

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**Date of meeting** 26 April 2024

**Date of report** 15 April 2024

**Report by Director of Finance & Corporate Support**

### 1. Object of report

To recommend the Committee approve the direct award of Digital Hardware Refresh (Phase 2) to Insight via CCS Framework RM6098.

### 2. Background to report

SPT has been undertaking a multi-year digital hardware refresh project to replace existing digital networking equipment at SPT sites. Insight, our Managed Network Provider, have been working with SPT to get our digital estate into an up-to-date and supported state, replacing devices which have reached End of Life (EOL). When devices reach EOL they no longer receive security updates or support from the manufacturer.

Phase 1 of the project was delivered in 2023/2024. Phase 2 will take place during 2024/2025. The project involves replacing core networking equipment at SPT sites, specifically critical security firewalls and associated network switch equipment. The new firewalls being procured are 'next generation' making them better suited to handle increasing cyber and security threats.

### 3. Outline of proposals

#### 3.1 Scope of Services

To ensure compatibility with existing digital infrastructure, Phase 2 will see the procurement of new Cisco equipment to replace existing infrastructure which has reached EOL:

- Supply and deliver all the Cisco equipment, software and licenses
- Provide Cisco Partner Support
- Perform configuration, testing and installation of new Cisco equipment
- Disposal of EOL Cisco equipment in accordance with electronic waste recycling processes (WEEE regulations)
- Provide project management services

#### 3.2 Tender Process

This project is a follow-on to the Digital Hardware Refresh Phase 1 which used a mini-tender via Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Framework RM6068 (Technology Products and Associated Services 1 - Lot 2 Hardware). Hardware-only quotes were requested for this, as Insight our contracted Cisco Partner was already contracted to provide the install and configuration services.

CCS Framework RM6098 Technology Products and Associated Services 2 has replaced the previous RM6068 framework. It is, therefore, proposed to use the RM6098 Framework Lot 1 which covers Hardware and Software and Associated Services to procure for Phase 2 and to directly award to Insight from that framework.

### 3.3 Justification for Direct Award

Phase 1 of the project saw the replacement of generic equipment and switches through a mini tender on the framework based solely on price, which Insight won.

Phase 2 sees the replacement of equipment which is key to SPT’s overall digital security arrangements. Direct award to Insight is proposed in order to ensure compatibility with the Phase 1 configuration.

Direct award also means that the specification of SPT’s existing and planned security firewalls and configurations will not be published through a mini tender, reducing the risk that these specifications could be exploited by cybercriminals and hackers.

### 3.4 Costs

Insight has provided SPT with the following cost breakdown:

<b>Phase 2 Items</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Spend Type</b>
Equipment (Hardware)	£119,650.43	Capital
Project Management /Installation	£93,150.00	Capital
Licensing (Software)	£96,544.58	Revenue
Cisco Partner Support (Insight)	£28,058.90	Revenue
<b>Total</b>	<b>£337,403.91</b>	

These costs are in line with existing capital and revenue budget provision in 2024/2025.

## 4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to approve the direct award of Digital Hardware Refresh (Phase 2) to Insight via CCS Framework RM6098 for the sum of £337,403.91.

## 5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>Supports the objectives of SPT’s Digital Strategy, in particular implementing security technology.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>The award will be subject to Framework terms.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>The cost of the contract fall within the capital and revenue budgets set for financial year 2024/25.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None directly.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>There are increased security risks to SPT if the existing equipment goes EOL, as it will be more vulnerable to external attacks.</i>

Climate Change, Adaptation &  
Carbon consequences

*Electronic waste recycling processes will be in place for  
equipment changes.*

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