



COUNCIL CABINET
12 JULY 2005

Report of the Director of Social Services

Upgrade of Anite Swift Social Care System Software to Incorporate Requirements of the Integrated Children System

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To approve the procurement of the Anite Integrated Children System (ICS) module in order to meet the DfES requirement for all new social care referrals to be processed and recorded using the prescribed exemplars from Jan 2006.
- 1.2 To waive the requirement of Contracts Procedure Rule C15 to obtain tenders given the special circumstances that apply in this case.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The implementation and use of ICS is a requirement issued by the DfES to all authorities with social services responsibilities. ICS is the nationally prescribed tool for recording and processing social care interactions with children.
- 2.2 Integration is an essential requirement. A third party system would not integrate with the main social care system unless significant additional integration work was undertaken at cost and risks to timescale. Without the integration there could be a potential risk to children. It would be extremely disruptive to the service and staff if an alternative provider was brought in at this stage. Anite is the sole supplier of an off the shelf integrated solution. If the department does not meet the DfES target date this may impact on the performance rating of the department and consequently the CPA status of the authority.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Social Services Department has used and developed Anite Swift as their core business support system for five years, across adults and childrens services. The system has served the department well and is the source for all operational and management information in the department. In addition, all performance measures reported to the corporate centre and to external government departments are derived from Swift, there are workflow and case management functions within the software to assist staff. The incorporation of the Anite ICS module will preserve the integrity of the Swift application.
- 3.2 Anite Swift is a nationally recognised social care software solution operated by some 60 local authorities, the majority of whom will be incorporating the ICS requirements into their solution using Anite as the provider. Large

authorities such as Kent have recently signed up with Anite for the use of Swift as their social care application of choice.

- 3.3 The structural changes taking place within the authority for the Integrated Children Service also has a bearing on the course of action the authority takes now to meet the short term target set by the DfES. The ICS solution only deals with social care interactions with children not other strands e.g. health and education. which will be enveloped in the Integrated Children Service. Whilst the exact shape of the wider Integrated Children Service and therefore the information and business process needs are unspecified, it would not be expedient to go out to the market on one strand of a much larger IT system solution that may be required in the short term, to meet the needs of the new service.
- 3.3 There is an underlying technology issue with the Swift application in the sense that it is not a good fit with the e-Derby vision. However, Anite have presented an integration model that will allow the Swift application including ICS to link with developments taking place corporately. Whilst this will suffice in the short term to mid term, the department is currently reviewing its ICT strategy. This will no doubt reveal a much closer technology match with the corporate approach will be required for new applications. As for existing applications such as Swift their sustainability on grounds of economic efficiency will be in question in the medium to long term and ultimately market forces will prevail, and at that juncture technology convergence will become a pre requisite of any replacement process.
- 3.4 The best course of action open to the authority at this point in time, to comply with its statutory requirements, minimise disruption to the service, insulate against project risk and allow a considered approach to future requirements is to engage with Anite for the provision of the ICS module for Swift. Clearly appropriate negotiations on the standard price quoted by Anite for the provision of the software will take place.
- 3.5 Approval is sought under Contract Procedure Rule C6 to waive the tender requirements and award the contract for the supply of an ICS module to Anite, subject to price negotiation.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 We have considered the use of a standalone ICS solution. This has been dismissed due to the significant resource requirements for entering the same data into two systems. In addition, the potential risk of cases falling between two separate systems.
- 4.2 We have also considered replacement of the Childrens component of the Swift software application. This has been dismissed on the grounds of cost, disruption and failure to meet future needs of the Integrated Children Service.

For more information contact:	Ian Orrell	01332 256703 ian.Orrell@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications	

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The Anite ICS solution software has a retail price of £105,000 for licensing with an annual maintenance charge of £16,000. In addition, there would be charges for implementation services and consultancy.

The price quoted above is competitive with other vendor prices which range from £100 - £125,000 for licencing. Implementation and maintenance charges would also apply. However, with a third party solution there would be additional interfacing costs estimated at £60,000.

The value of the contract with Anite for the supply and installation of software would be capped at £149,000 including implementation services and consultancy. This is equivalent to the value of specific grant funding received by the department from the DfES for implementation of ICS.

- 1.2 There will need to be consideration of how to meet the on-going Social Services revenue costs in 2006/07 and beyond at a later point. The need from this project was identified as part of the 2005/06 budget planning process but it was agreed to defer consideration of this until the costs were known.

Legal

2. Cabinet can waive the requirements of Contracts Procedures Rules under rule C6 if satisfied that the waiver is justified in the circumstances.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. The target to handle all new referrals using ICS forms part of the inspection regime for Social Services, therefore it will impact on the overall star rating awarded to the department. This will consequently feed into the authorities CPA rating for 2005/6. The introduction of ICS will contribute to the council priority of modernising social care.