



**Service Delivery
Committee**

7 July 2015

Information

Title: **Choice Based Lettings System**

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1 Introduction

The purpose of the report is to inform members of progress in securing an ongoing Choice Based Lettings system.

2 Recommendations

That members note this report.

3 Information

The Council's Choice Based Lettings contract was extended for 12 months in July 2014 to allow for the continuation of the existing partnership with the other 6 district and Boroughs in Leicestershire which is due to come to an end in September 2015. The value of the contract required a contract exemption to be obtained and Council financial regulations allow for a limited number of exemptions before the service is competitively procured.

It is proposed to negotiate a further 12 month contract extension which will require a further contract exemption.

A District wide sub-group of the Choice Based Lettings Steering Group have met with a range of IT suppliers in a 'soft' market testing exercise. The sub-group have concluded that one supplier provides both the necessary flexibility and value for money likely required moving forward. The Steering Group aims to produce a report in October or November 2015 and has sought ongoing oversight from the District wide Chief Housing Officers Group.

The value of a 7 borough partnership contract will require the process to go through the EU procurement process.

In time, Members will be presented with options moving forward. This may include the following:

1. A continuation of a partnership of 7 Borough Councils in Leicestershire
2. A partnership with a number of Boroughs in Leicestershire
3. An option to opt out of a wider District wide IT procurement exercise and look at low cost stand alone IT systems.

These options will be fully considered and a best value for money solution be sought to suit the requirements and need of the Borough whilst balancing the need to work in partnership with other Districts.

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Implications	
Financial (PL)	An exemption from Contract Procedure Rules will be required, endorsed by either the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Executive or the Director of Services based on the grounds that “tender or quotes for similar goods, works or services have been obtained in the last 24 months.”
Risk (APM)	CR4 Reputational risk. CR2 key supplier partnership failure
Equalities (AC)	No Significant Impact
Legal (AC)	Contract Procedure rules need to be followed