

**Oldham Borough Council
Record of Decision**



1. **TITLE:** MRI Contract
2. **SERVICE AREA:** Resources Directorate – Revenues and Benefits Service
3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION:**
The report outlines Oldham Council's requirement for a Revenues and Benefits system to administer the billing and collection of Business Rates and Council Tax, and assessment and payment of Housing Benefit, Local Council Tax Reduction, and Housing Payments (formerly Discretionary Housing Payments).
4. **DECISION MADE BY:** Chief Executive
5. **DECISION:**
That approval be given to agree a new contract for the Revenues and Benefits software with MRI by direct award for 5 years.
6. **REASON FOR DECISION**
The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.
7. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**
Option 1 – Full Tender / Open Market.
The move to an alternative Revenues and Benefits software provider is not viable in the timeframe, would require significant resources, have implementation and transition delays, and is supported by public precedent.
Option 2 – Direct Award to MRI for 1 year.
This would be insufficient duration and would require additional procurement work soon after.
Option 3 (preferred option) – Direct Award to MRI under RM6098 Compliant route for 5 years.
This would avoid transition costs, maintain continuity, is aligned with CCS guidance, and confirmed by an existing published award using the same framework.
9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** During the review of the contract, feedback has been obtained from relevant services who use the contract.
10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Not applicable

