

**Delegated Officer Report**  
**(Non Key and Contracts up to a value of £100k)**

**Decision Maker:** Nasir Dad – Director of Environment

**Date of Decision:** 16 May 2023

**Subject:** Winter Bureau Maintenance Services – Vaisala

**Report Author:** Darren McGrattan – Interim Head of Service, Emergency Planning, Events and Highways

**Ward (s):** All Wards

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**Reason for the decision:** This report seeks approval to enter into a call-off contract under a framework agreement procured by Stockport MBC (STaR) on behalf of AGMA for the weather forecasting and winter bureau services, for which the framework agreement has been awarded to Vaisala Ltd

**Summary:** The winter gritting service runs from the middle October to mid-April each year. A key function of planning for winter is the weather forecasting and winter bureau services. This is a key part of our planning process and weather monitoring of our weather stations across the borough when gritting. The contract also includes the yearly maintenance of all weather stations.

A compliant tender exercise facilitated by Stockport MBC was carried out and a framework agreement was subsequently awarded to Vaisala Ltd for an initial 3-year contract (years 2023 – 2026) with the option to extend for a further 2 years. The costs submitted by Vaisala Ltd indicate a yearly cost of £13,638.66 each year. Appendix 1 gives further details as to the tender process.

**What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):**

Option 1: To approve the recommendation of this report to call-off under the winter bureau service and maintenance framework agreement and directly award a call-off contract to Vaisala.

Option 2: To not approve the recommendation leaving Oldham Council without winter forecasting services which are essential in planning for the winter season.

**Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.**

Not applicable

**Recommendation(s):**

Option 1: To approve the recommendation of this report to utilise the winter bureau service and maintenance contract and directly award to Vaisala.

**Implications:**

**What are the financial implications?**

This will be funded via the winter budget on cost centre 40370. (John Edisbury)

**What are the legal implications?**

Rule 4 of the Contract Procedure Rules allows the Council to place orders under procurement compliant framework agreements put in place by other contracting authorities. Therefore, provided the terms of the framework agreement are complied with and a call-off contract is entered into in the form prescribed by the framework agreement there are no known legal implications to the proposed action.

Sarah Orrell – Commercial & Procurement Solicitor

**What are the procurement implications?**

The Commercial Procurement Unit supports the recommendation outlined in the report. The tender exercise carried out by Stockport MBC was undertaken in line with the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 and the framework agreement set up allows Oldham Council to enter into a call off arrangement with Vaisala Ltd.

(Emily Molden)

What are the **Human Resources** implications?

There are no HR implications (Gaynor Boardman)

**Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment** attached or not required because (please give reason)

Not Applicable

What are the **property** implications

Not Applicable

**Risks:**

The proposals set out in this report highlight how the Council will utilise a third party contract to identify how it targets resources at only gritting when there is poor weather forecast. The proposed way forward seems sensible from a risk perspective

Mark Stenson.

**Co-operative agenda**

The proposal to deliver weather and winter bureau services through Vaisala Ltd is welcomed as this service will enable the Council to prepare for harsh winter weather over the next few years and keep residents safe. Additionally, using the same contract framework agreement, used by Stockport Council, following a tender exercise shows good example of good partnership engagement and learning.

Mahmuda Khanom

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Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?

Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?

Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

No

**Reason(s) for exemption from publication:**

Open Report

**List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:**

**There are no background papers for this report**

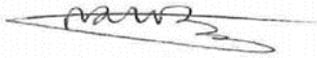
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<b>Report Author Sign-off:</b>	Darren McGrattan
<b>Date:</b>	May 2023

Please list and attach any appendices:-

<b>Appendix number or letter</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Post Tender Award Report produced by Stockport MBC (STaR Procurement).

Director of Environment



Signed :

Date: 16 May 2023

**Appendix 1 -**



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Threshold Award Rep