



Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k

Subject:	Contract: IT Enterprise Architect Resource
Decision maker: Senior Officer	Fiona Greenway, Executive Director of Resources
Decision maker: Cabinet Member	Cllr Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability
Decision date:	11 August 2025
Report author:	Fran Lautman, Assistant Director of Customer Experience
Ward (s):	N/A

Reason for decision:

IT Services are delivering several key infrastructure projects. A critical gap exists in the architecture capacity, risking delays in strategic programmes. To alleviate these pressures and maintain momentum on high-priority projects, additional experienced resource is required.

Failure to secure this resource through a compliant route would jeopardise delivery and increase risks across multiple workstreams.

Recommendation(s):

Option 3 is recommended: to approve and enter into a new Call-Off Contract with AireLogic via the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) G-Cloud 14 Framework Agreement.

This enables continuity of a high-performing Enterprise Architect resource while providing time for internal service reviews and permanent recruitment.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Enterprise Architect service was initially provided through Unity Partnership and later novated to Oldham Council in March 2022. The role supported Capital IT projects and became vacant in December 2023.
- 1.2 Recruitment efforts have been unsuccessful due to market shortages and salary constraints. The role is currently under internal job evaluation with the intention to be permanently established.
- 1.3 In April 2024, a Call-Off Contract was entered via G-Cloud 13 and extended in August 2024. That extension expired on 14 November 2024.
- 1.4 In November 2024, a Call-Off Contract was approved for a further 160 days via G Cloud 13 RM.1557.13 Framework which is due to expire 31st July 2025, no extensions are allowed under the existing agreement, a new Call-Off Contract is required to ensure continuity.

2. Proposed New Arrangement

- 2.1 A new Call-Off Contract via G-Cloud 14 will run from 1 August 2025 to 31 October 2025 (65 days). The day rate is £650, amounting to £42,250 total. Market rates for this type of role typically range from £800–£1,000/day.

3. Alternative option(s) to be considered

- 3.1 Option 1: Recruit into the vacant role. Attempts have been unsuccessful due to skill shortages and uncompetitive salaries.
- 3.2 Option 2: Source a new contractor via open market – this would involve onboarding delays, knowledge gaps, and higher costs.
- 3.3 Option 3 (recommended option): Proceed with a new Call-Off Contract with AireLogic This ensures continuity, leverages existing knowledge of Council systems, and offers immediate delivery capacity.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Procurement and Legal Services have been consulted on contractual compliance. No conflicts of interest have been declared.

5. Risks

- 5.1 Programme Delays: Not appointing will significantly impact delivery of key infrastructure work.
- 5.2 Consultancy Spend: Managed via limited contract term, cost savings, and planned internal recruitment.
- 5.3 Insurance and Compliance: Consultant must provide up-to-date professional indemnity and public liability insurance to be reviewed by the Insurance Team before appointment.
- 5.4 Information Risk: Early engagement with Information Governance is required, especially for projects involving AI or sensitive data.

6. Implications

Financial	<p><u>Capital Implications</u> The proposed scheme represents capital expenditure and will be a charge against the Information Technology (IT) capital programme.</p> <p>Provision exists within the capital programme against which this scheme will be a charge.</p> <p>It is expected that the £42,250k will be defrayed in the current financial year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jit Kara, Senior Accountant</p> <p><u>Revenue</u> The contract price of £42,250k will be wholly recharged to the IT capital programme.</p> <p>Should there be a desire to extend the contract again beyond the 31st of October 2025, then further approvals will be required. This will be subject to a delegated report.</p> <p>There are no revenue implications relating to this request.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Matthew Kearns, Finance Manager</p>
Legal	<p>The Call-Off Contract entered on 15 April 2024 between the Council and AireLogic for an initial term that was later extended to expire on 4th July 2025. The additional resource secured under the call-off contract will still be required following the expiry of the call-off contract.</p> <p>Accordingly, a new call-off contract under the G-Cloud 13 Framework Agreement, which would commence on 4 July 2025 and expire on 31st October 2025, is recommended.</p> <p>Rule 4 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules details the commissioning requirements depending on the value of the proposed contract. Rule 4 also allows for orders to be placed under existing procurement compliant framework agreements.</p> <p>The G-Cloud 13 Framework Agreement was procured by the Crown Commercial Service for a 2-year period from 9 November 2022 to 8 November 2024. It is an online catalogue where public sector customers can buy cloud-based computing services such as hosting, software and cloud support. It also includes many off-the-shelf, pay-as-you-go cloud solutions. It is a procurement compliant framework agreement, and provided the 6-step buying process is followed, a direct call-off contract can be awarded to the preferred supplier. It is confirmed within the Procurement comments that an award to Aire Logic Limited is permissible under the framework.</p>

	<p>A call-off contract must be entered into with the chosen supplier using the form of call-off contract specified in the G-Cloud 13 Framework Agreement. The call-off contract will be subject to the prescribed terms and conditions. Legal advice should be taken as required.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Michael Grocott, Commercial and Procurement Solicitor</p>
<p>Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>
<p>Procurement</p>	<p>The Commercial Procurement Unit supports the recommendation to proceed with Option 3: a call-off under the G-Cloud 14 framework to appoint AireLogic Limited for the delivery of Enterprise Architectures as a Service.</p> <p>G Cloud 14 Framework details: Agreement number: RM1557.14 Start date: 29/10/2024 End date: 28/04/2026 Regulation: PCR2015 Agreement type: PCR15 Framework</p> <p>Procurement has initiated a project titled IT Enterprise Architect Resource RM1557.14-All-Oldham Council No. 67218 via the CCS Digital Marketplace. The search was based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service type: Architectural consultancy services • Minimum government security clearance: Developed Vetting (DV), Security Clearance (SC), Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) • Security certifications: ISO/IEC 27001 (service security), Cyber Essentials, Cyber Essentials Plus <p>Based on these requirements, two suppliers were identified. One supplier provides services exclusively to the Ministry of Defence, which are not applicable to Oldham Council. The remaining supplier is AireLogic Limited. In line with CCS Buying Guidelines, where only one supplier meets the specified criteria, a direct award is permissible without further procurement action.</p> <p>Upon approval of this report, Procurement will work with Legal colleagues to ensure the G-Cloud order form is completed, G-Cloud 14 framework is compliant with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Senga Henstock, ICT Senior Buyer</p>

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

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

None

Report author sign-off	Fran Lautman 
Role	Assistant Director of Customer Experience
Date of sign-off	11 August 2025

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	Fiona Greenway 
Role	Executive Director of Resources
Date of sign-off	11.08.25

Approval	
Member(s) approval sign-off	 Cllr Abdul Jabbar
Role	Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability
Date of sign-off	11.08.2025