

**Chief Executive Officers Management
Group –
Briefing note February 2019**

Introduction

This document provides an update on Scotland Excel's engagement with the Local Government Digital Office (LGDO) and SEEMIS Group LLP, following requests at the Scotland Excel Chief Executive Officers Management Group (CEOMG), and the SOLACE branch meeting in October 2018

Background

Scotland Excel is a shared service for Scotland's 32 local authorities. The organisation was set up in 2008 in response to the John McClelland Report, published in 2006, which recognised the need to improve procurement performance across the Scottish public sector.

Scotland Excel provides a number of services to member councils:

- A portfolio of collaborative contracts worth over £1bn, covering care, construction, transport, ICT, corporate services and education
- Services which help members improve their procurement capability through assessments and improvement initiatives delivered at an organisational level, and Scotland Excel Academy learning and development programmes for their staff
- Bespoke commercial projects for members and non-members

Scotland Excel has been working with other shared service partners to provide commercial support across a range of projects. This report focuses on the Digital Office Project and the SEEMiS Project.

Scotland Excel & the Digital Office

Scotland Excel has seconded a member of staff to the Digital Office to provide procurement advice, guidance and support where this is required for projects. To date, they have been involved in:

Foundation Projects

Scotland Excel has provided procurement advice for several of the Digital Office's foundations projects including the Network Review, Common Platforms and Mobile & Flexible Working initiatives.

Our primary focus has been the Supply Chain & Procurement workstream which is reviewing the use, cost and maturity of ICT systems in councils, and the relationships in place with existing suppliers.

Supplier Engagement

As the activities of the Digital Office have attracted significant interest from the ICT supplier market, we delivered a webinar to help suppliers understand more about the programme.

A post-webinar survey was undertaken to determine their specific areas of interest. A register of suppliers, by project, has been created to enable project leads to target future market engagement exercises.

'Delivering on Digital' Event

Scotland Excel and the Digital Office are jointly hosting an event with DXC, an international technology company. This event is open to councils, and aims to challenge the way we think about digital technologies.

Social Care

Scotland Excel and the Digital Office are leading a technical panel to create a specification of requirements for a social care case management framework.

Six councils are collaborating on the requirements to be included in the project. A review of the current market and supplier roadmaps was undertaken to identify key stakeholders and understand the supply market.

A Prior Information Notice (PIN) has been advertised on Public Contracts Scotland to alert the market to this procurement opportunity. The requirements for the framework will be published during the first quarter of 2019.

Information Gathering

In partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, an information repository software tool has been designed and developed to store information about each council's software contracts.

The tool will provide Scotland-wide visibility of current software contract content and value to identify collaborative procurement opportunities, minimise the need for external consultancy and improve supplier engagement.

A web-based animation has been developed to demonstrate how the tool works, highlight the benefits and to promote how councils can support this initiative.

Scotland Excel and South Lanarkshire are conducting demonstrations and discussions of the tool with all ICT leads throughout January. East Lothian and West Dunbarton Councils will be the first councils to take part in these sessions and have agreed provide feedback on using the tool.

Scottish Government Collaboration

Scotland Excel and the Digital Office are working with the Scottish Government's Cyber Resilience Unit to assist in the evaluation of a Cyber Security Assessment toolkit. This will be made available to the wider public sector to ensure suppliers have the appropriate level of Cyber accreditation for the services they offer.

We are also engaging councils to ascertain demand for procurement services to support 'Internet of Things' (digitally connected devices) projects. Scotland Excel assisted with a survey and will support a scoping exercise for a Dynamic Purchasing System should there be sufficient demand.

COSLA / Scottish Government Management Consultancy

Following contact with the Digital Office, Scotland Excel provided consultancy to Coslato support their procurement requirements to engage a 3rd party to facilitate a review of telecare call handling services. A contract was put in place using a national Crown Commercial Services framework.

Scotland Excel & SEEMiS

SEEMiS Group LLP is the Education Management Information System (MIS) provider for all 32 Scottish Local Authorities and schools. Their platform provides essential ICT and data management functionality to all users within the school and early years sectors in Scotland.

SEEMiS do not have any procurement staff within the organisation and currently have a member of staff seconded from Scotland Excel to deliver compliant procurement projects agreed by the SEEMiS board, and provide procurement advice, guidance and consultation.

To date, Scotland Excel has supported procurement projects with an value of almost £2m and has helped SEEMiS enable savings of £547k for its members. A summary of the value of the work undertaken to date can be found in Appendix 1.

Projects undertaken to date and in the pipeline are:

Next Generation SEEMiS

Phase 1

The primary focus of the collaboration between Scotland Excel and SEEMiS is to modernise and transform the existing SEEMiS School MIS platform.

Phase 1 of this next generation school platform, covering the first 10 core modules of the new MIS, will initially be co-developed in partnership with the supplier. Thereafter, it will be fully managed in-house by SEEMiS with a system life expectancy of 10 years.

Following a procurement exercise, the co-development partnership was awarded to Alscient in May 2018. The contract is based on Amazon Web Services technology, which will act as the base platform for subsequent SEEMiS technologies. This work was recognised at the recent GO Awards Scotland, winning a 'Highly Commended' within the procurement project of the year category.

New Early Learning and Childcare MIS

Local Government require a new Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) MIS to manage the expansion of Procurement for an Early Learning and Childcare from 600 hours to 1140 hours. Scottish Government have agreed to fund the build of this new system and SEEMiS require to procure Development capacity to meet challenging implementation timescales. Pre-market engagement activity is underway.

Other Procurement Activity

A number of other procurement projects/offshoots have been delivered alongside the two main transformational projects. These have included a text messaging facility, a new data hosting facility and various contracts which have been put in place through national frameworks.

Future Projects

The procurement project for an Early Learning and Childcare MIS platform, and another for a System Integrator (SI), will be concluded by mid-2019. This will be followed by phase 2 of the next generation school platform and a refresh of the platform's text messaging facilities. The management team of SEEMiS are keen to continue working in collaboration with Scotland Excel to support these projects.

Appendix 1

21/01/2019		SEEMIS Contracts Tracker						
Contract	Type	Annual	Duration	Total	Expiry	Supplier	Benchmark Savings	Comments
Next Gen	ITT	£ 750,000	2yrs	£ 1,500,000	May-20	Alscient	£ 200,000	based on benchmark of £1.7M for time & materials
Text Messaging	Call-Off (CCS)	£ 650,000	2yrs	£ 1,300,000	Aug-19	Groupcall	£ 100,000	based on new Groupcall call-off contract
Data Hosting	ITT	£ 37,228	3yrs	£ 111,684	Jul-21	DataVita	£ 26,316	£46k per annum current annual cost for Caird St facility
AWS POC	Call-Off (CCS)	£ 24,900	One-Off	£ 24,900	Apr-17	Alscient	N/A	G-Cloud 9 Call Off
AWS Architect	Call-Off (CCS)	£ 17,000	One-Off	£ 17,000	May-17	Alscient	N/A	G-Cloud 8 Call Off
365 Licence	Call-Off (CCS)	£ 3,152	2yrs	£ 9,455	Apr-20	Phoenix	N/A	G-Cloud 9 Call Off
365 Installation	Call-Off (CCS)	£ 8,500	One-Off	£ 8,500	Jun-18	GCI	N/A	G-Cloud 9 Call Off
Parents Evening Booking System	Call-Off (CCS)	£ 339,920	1yr + 1	£ 679,840	Mar-19	Groupcall	£ 224,347	33% SEEMIS discount vs G-Cloud 8 Call Off
Photocopiers	Call-Off (SGov)	£ 7,735	5yrs	£ 38,675	Jan-22	Konica Minolta	£ 24,000	ScotGovt Call Off
Security Consultancy	Call-Off (CCS)	£ 21,340	One-Off	£ 21,340	Aug-20	ECSC Group	N/A	G-Cloud 10 Call Off
API Developers	Call-off (CCS)	£ 130,500	One Off	£ 130,500	Aug-19	Alscient	N/A	CCS -RM3745 Call Off
Totals		£ 1,990,275		£ 3,841,894			£ 574,663	
Pipeline								
Early Learning/Childcare	ITT/Call off SGov DPS	£ 1,000,000	1yr	£ 1,000,000				Expression of Interest Dec 2018
System Integrator	ITT	£ 700,000	2 yrs +1	£ 2,100,000	Jan-22		**Concession	Tender Published 24/10/2018
Text Messaging	ITT	£ 650,000	2yrs	£ 1,300,000				Not Started
Next Gen2	ITT	£ 1,000,000	2yrs	£ 2,000,000				Not Started
		£ 3,350,000		£ 6,400,000				
Totals		£ 5,340,275		£ 10,241,894				