
Cabinet Issues

1. **EssexWorks: Customers First – Preferred Bidder Selection**

The Cabinet considered a report by the Leader of the Council (CAB/025/09) concerning the recommendation of a "Preferred Bidder" i.e., our potential long term partner for our transformation programme, *EssexWorks: Customers First*.

Cabinet was asked to note the Evaluation Team's rationale for arriving at this recommendation and to approve further recommendations below:

The Selection of a Preferred Bidder does not enter ECC into any long term contractual agreement. It agrees to select a Preferred Bidder with whom the Council wishes to work exclusively to finalise a mutually acceptable contractual position to deliver elements of the aforementioned transformation programme.

The Cabinet also noted that the Preferred Bidder would be asked to provide support during the final phase of the procurement under an interim arrangement. This work would be around key areas such as information gathering and analysis to ensure that any business cases or work streams identified are as developed and accurate as possible, and early work to assist in ICT improvements and the acceleration of procurement savings.

The Cabinet agreed that IBM be appointed as the Council's Preferred Bidder; the principle of an interim arrangement with the Preferred Bidder and that a detailed discussion and debate on the topic of signing the final contract take place at Full Council on 13 October 2009 and then a further report be considered by Cabinet.