

Options Appraisal



1. Project objectives

- Smooth transition to chosen hosting solution with no negative impact to end users.
- System performance remains the same or is improved.
- The ABW system under the new hosting arrangement is accessible during times required.
- Remove the need for, and consequently the associated costs of, the Agilisys BizTalk ESB.
- Resolve the database performance issues and known backup and restore risks arising from the database file size.
- No data loss nor loss of system functionality is incurred during migration to any new hosting supplier.
- Review the current upgrade process and associated resource arrangements to ensure best value and performance for BCC.
- New hosting provider includes disaster recovery capability that meets BCC's RTO, RPO, accessibility and availability requirements.

2. Options Long List

Option title	Option description	Shortlisted (Y/N)	Reason discounted
1. Do Nothing	Allow the existing hosting and support contract to expire on 28 th May 2019.	No	Expiration of the hosting contract with no alternative arrangement in place will mean the termination of BCC's access to a IT based system, severely impeding the organisations ability to make payments to staff and suppliers and undertake its financial statutory duties.
2. Retain current provider as the hosting and support provider	Continuation and renegotiation of the current contract.	Yes	
3. Issue the contract directly to Unit4 for Software-as-a-Service	Direct issue of the contract to Unit4, the supplier of ABW, for hosting and support of the system.	No	Procurement risks preclude contracting directly to Unit4. The Unit4 SaaS system offering is materially different to the current ABW system. This would necessitate a retender of the Finance system.
4. Retender the contract	Retender the ABW hosting and support contract using either the full OJEU process or using a suitable framework procurement.	Yes	
5. BCC provided hosting and support	Migrate the ABW system from external host to	No	Strategically the least preferred hosting option, and could present

	internal MS Azure Cloud environment, with BCC providing Platform, DBA, upgrades, and break-fix support in conjunction with support from Unit4.		significant technical support and knowledge risk to the organisation.
6. Retender the corporate Finance system	Retender the corporate Finance system via either a full OJEU procurement or via a suitable framework. For ease it is assumed that if a suitable framework exists then this would be used.	No	<p>Far exceeds the scope and remit of the current mandate, requiring significantly more time, cost and resources to deliver.</p> <p>It would significantly impact capacity and capability of the Finance service and also impact other financial functions across BCC both at corporate level and in service specific areas.</p> <p>No funding currently exists for this work.</p> <p>BCC has invested in a 25 year site licence for the ABW Finance system. A change of system would effectively see a write-off of this asset value.</p>

3. Recommendation

Option 4, to retender the ABW hosting and support contract, is the preferred option.

The rationale for this is there would be significant procurement risk if contracting directly to either the incumbent hosting and support provider, Agilisys, or directly to the software supplier, Unit 4. It is evident through past experience and as the result of soft market testing during this evaluation process, that there are significant unknowns associated with either of these direct routes, and any assumed benefits of contracting directly are not sufficient to mitigate the procurement risks. It is therefore considered that an objective procurement and tender process should be undertaken to ascertain the best hosting and support provider for BCC's ABW Finance system.