

# CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny

**Date of meeting:** 19/10/23

**Title:** Banking Contract

**Purpose of the report:** To provide an update on the Council's Banking Contract.

## 1. Background

The Council's banking contract provides for the transactional side of banking activity. This includes the provision of banking facilities (e.g. bank accounts and internet banking) to enable operational transactions for the Council's income and expenditure to be banked and accounted for.

The Council's wider investment approach (including counterparty considerations) are set by the annual Treasury Management Strategy which is considered by Full Council. The banking contract does not include Secure Collection services (e.g. cash / cheques) nor does it include Merchant services for online payment methods (e.g. debit / credit cards).

The Council's current provider is Barclays, with the current contract running until 29/02/24. Barclays is a UK based bank, with a long-term credit rating of A1 (Moody's) and has and continues to provide the Council with an excellent service. Barclays has operated local government sector specialism for over 15 years, currently providing transactional banking services to just under 25% of all local authorities and holding treasury relationships with close to 70% in the UK.

The current annual cost for Banking Services is in the region of £10k to £15k pa.

## 2. Procurement Process

The Council has advertised the new tender opportunity openly through Sell2Wales using etenderwales. This is the Welsh Government's procurement portal through which Welsh public services advertise contract opportunities. Any potential interested supplier who is registered on the portal and is interested in Banking Services will have received a notification of the Council's tender.

The tender was open for a period of 1 calendar month from 04/09/23 to 04/10/23 and a new contract is offered on a 7 year basis, with a further 2 year optional extension. There is a significant amount of operational work involved in changing banks, hence why there is a longer than average contract duration. The tender will be evaluated on the basis of a 30% Price / 70% Quality split with 200 marks available in total.

Whilst the focus in the quality criteria are predominantly core operational requirements including key matters such as cyber security and anti-fraud measures, weighting and attention is also given to Community Benefits (5 marks) and Environmental, Social & Governance matters (15 marks).

### **3. Current Position**

At the time of writing, the tender has closed and 2 Suppliers have submitted a tender. The formal tender evaluation process will now be undertaken. Contract Procedure Rules prevent bidders' names being disclosed during the tender evaluation process.

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?** No

**If, not, please state why**

**Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Summary:**  
**Long term:** Not Applicable  
**Integration:** Not Applicable  
**Collaboration:** Not Applicable  
**Involvement:** Not Applicable  
**Prevention:** Not Applicable

**Recommendations(s):** 1. To note the update provided on the Council's Banking Services contract

**Corporate Priorities:** All

**Financial & Procurement implications:** F&P Budget

**Statutory Powers:**

**Appendices:** None

**Corporate Lead Officer(s):** Duncan Hall - Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement

**Reporting Officers:** Duncan Hall  
Justin Davies  
Mark Bridges  
George Ryley

**Date:** 04/10/23