ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Deputy Leader
2.	Date:	15 April 2013
3.	Title:	Redstor Back-up for Schools
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Member approval for exemption from contract standing orders, to allow Redstor to continue to provide the annual licences, support and maintenance for the Redstor back-up system for Rotherham's schools.

RMBC has used Redstor for the provision of its school's online back-up system since 2009. The cost of the licence and support for 2013/14 is £41,318 and adequate budget is available to cover this (the cost is re-charged to schools).

Failure to renew the contract would put the continued use of the service at risk which could result in the loss of school's data.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- **the contract for licencing, support and maintenance of the Redstor online back-up service be exempt from the provisions of standing order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite at least 3 written quotations for contracts with a value of between £20k and £50k) and the contract be awarded to Redstor.**

7. Proposals and Details

In 2009 RMBC (through RBT) contracted Redstor to provide an online back-up service for Rotherham's schools. The contract is for one year, renewed annually in April. Most of the schools in the Borough use this service which provides a secure mechanism for a school's data to be stored 'in the cloud' (i.e. in Redstor's data centres) and retrieved as necessary. The Redstor service is 'back-up' storage as opposed to a school's primary data store as most schools use local servers and computers for day to day storage needs only backing up select data to Redstor as and when necessary.

RMBC makes a single annual payment to Redstor on behalf of all the schools using the service. We then recoup the cost from schools (plus a small mark-up to cover RMBC's costs) as part of the School's Connect service payments.

Other online back-up solutions exist but neither RMBC nor the schools wish to change to a new provider at this time. The Redstor solution is easy to use and popular with schools and was selected after an in-depth investigation in to the solutions available. Data security considerations are paramount given the nature of the data being held by Redstor and any replacement service would need to be subject to an exhaustive security audit. The cost to move to a new supplier (including migration costs and training) will be significant.

A maintenance and support contract exists (renewed annually in April) so that Redstor can provide software licences and support to the local authority for software issues that may arise. The cost of the licence and support for 2013/14 is £41,318 and adequate budget is available to cover this.

Failure to renew the contract would put the continued use of this important service at risk. As such a request is made for the provision of licences, support and maintenance for the Redstor Online Back-Up Service to be exempt from the provisions of standing order 47.6.3 (requirement to invite at least 3 written quotations for contracts with a value of between £20k and £50k) and the contract be awarded to Redstor.

8. Finance

The cost of this support and maintenance contract for 2013/14 is £41,318 and is recharged to schools.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to renew the contract for Redstor could result in school's data being put at risk.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Policy and Performance issues are discussed elsewhere in this report.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

This proposal is aligned to the RMBC ICT Strategy (2011 to 2015) and schools have been consulted in the decision to renew the Redstor service.

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