

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 12 SEPTEMBER 2022**

### **PART I - DELEGATED**

#### **13. EXEMPTION FROM PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE – MODERN POLLING (CED)**

##### **1 Summary**

- 1.1 To advise Policy & Resources Committee that an exemption to the Procurement process was approved by the Chief Executive by the Exceptional Circumstances exemption as permitted by the Council's Constitution.

##### **2 Details**

- 2.1 The Elections Act 2022 will require voters in Great Britain to show photographic identification before being issued a ballot paper in polling stations. Failure to show ID will prevent a voter from voting.
- 2.2 Voter ID requirements will take effect for elections in May 2023. Guidance from Government is unlikely to be released until at least January 2023.
- 2.3 Modern Polling transforms the management of polling stations, providing the tools necessary to operate efficiently and enhance the voter experience.
- 2.4 Modern Polling gives secure access to the electronic register, instantly providing polling staff with voter information on-screen, marks the register, facilitates the production of the corresponding number list and the ballot paper account.
- 2.5 The use of Modern Polling is approved by Government Digital Services.
- 2.6 Modern Democracy offer a unique package with Modern Polling which incorporates Voter ID requirements. They are the only provider in the market to offer a complete solution.
- 2.7 Although Modern Polling is available on G-Cloud Government framework, a better deal can be obtained through a four-year contract direct. The Procurement Manager has confirmed this would justify an exemption.

##### **3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Constitution requires that a report is taken to Policy and Resources Committee for noting on the action taken in the event that an exemption to the procurement process is approved by the Chief Executive or a Director.

##### **4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy. See financial implications at 6.1 for reference to budgets.

##### **5 Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

- 5.1 None specific.

##### **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications specific to the exemption, however budget implications and considerations relating to the Modern Polling product itself are covered in the Voter ID report also on the agenda for this committee.

**7 Recommendation**

7.1 That Policy and Resources Committee note the action taken.

Report prepared by:

Josh Sills – Head of Customer Experience

**Data Quality**

Data sources:

Government Digital Services

Modern Polling

Data checked by:

Julie Prestidge – Elections Consultant

Kimberley Grout – Executive Head of Services

Data rating:

<b>1</b>	<b>Poor</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>High</b>	

**APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS**

None