

## **Council – 12 September 2005**

### **Putting The Citizen First**

#### **Summary of Report**

The report proposes arrangements and timescales for the approval and scrutiny of the contract for the Strategic Partnership with Fujitsu. Negotiations are at an advanced stage and, assuming the Council is able to agree provisionally a draft contract with the company which meets the Council's objectives, the Council needs to agree a process which enables members to be involved to consider, scrutinize and approve this draft contract.

#### **Recommendations**

Council agree the proposed process for consideration of the Putting the Citizen First contract.

#### **Report detail**

This report does not deal with any of the details of the contract which is referred in this report as the draft contract. This report deals with how the draft contract will be considered by the Council in order that a decision can be made as to whether the draft contract meets the interests of the people of Walsall and the Council can decide to enter into a partnership arrangement with Fujitsu.

Council will recall that Cabinet selected Fujitsu as the preferred bidder from a shortlist of three companies in December 2004. This was on the basis of their best and final offer (BAFO) which had been received from the company and evaluated.

Negotiations for the Putting the Citizen First contract are nearing completion. Much of the contract has now been prepared although there are still a number of outstanding issues where officers are negotiating with the company and these will need to be finalized.

The Council is now asked to agree the process to consider the draft contract. It is proposed that the draft contract is initially placed before Cabinet in order that the Executive can refer it to the Community and Organisation Scrutiny Panel for scrutiny.

The Organisation and Scrutiny Panel will be given a period of time to scrutinize the draft contract and to arrange specific meetings with any other scrutiny panel that wishes to comment on the draft contract. All consultations will be then referred to a special meeting of the Council. This will allow for further scrutiny by full Council prior to a Cabinet decision. In order that this extraordinary meeting of the Council can be called, five members of the Conservative Group have agreed that they will sign and submit a requisition to the Mayor with the business for that meeting being restricted to the Putting the Citizen First project.

Following the Council meeting, the Cabinet will make a decision on the contract. This decision will be subject to the normal decision making process of the Council.

### Consultation

There have been numerous discussions with Fujitsu about this consultation process. This process has the approval of Fujitsu and their partners and they will make themselves available for the scrutiny process, Cabinet and Council to answer any questions and give additional information that Members require.

The Council is asked to agree this process which will enable the full involvement of all elected Members.

Councillor Tom Ansell  
Leader of the Council