

Town Council Website Upgrade

Background

At its last meeting, the Council set aside £1000 and authorised the RFO to seek quotes for a website that guarantees WCAG 2.2 AA compliance. This report summarises the information provided and recommends a new website supplier.

Selection of Suppliers to Provide Quotes

Using professional networking groups, a list of suppliers currently providing local council websites was created. The following suppliers were removed from the list:

- Those who had created a website for their local council only
- Those whose specialist areas did not include local government
- Those who could not provide the option of using online forms

The remaining suppliers were asked to provide further information. This is outlined in Appendix 1 below.

Summary

- For each supplier, all data is hosted in the UK.
- Build times vary significantly.
- Some existing website content will be transferred, but not all.
- 10-year costs range between £4,990 and £6,740 (including online form building costs)*

Conclusion

The preferred supplier is Aubergine because:

- The sample websites meet our requirements for, digital compliance visual appearance and ease of use.
- They provided the most comprehensive proposal
- They have been prompt to respond to additional enquiries.
- Their 10-year cost is the lowest
- Their website build time, although the longest, is broken down into a realistic timeline

Aubergine have offered to provide a demonstration of the platform with a Q&A session for staff who would be using it.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Aubergine is selected as the preferred supplier and that a final decision is delegated to the Clerk and Mayor, following a successful demonstration of the platform.

Supplier	Estimated Build Time	Y1 and Build Costs (net)	Porting costs	Annual Costs (net)	Cost over £10 years including form builder *	Example Site	Training	Online Forms
Active Council	Not supplied	£829	included	£289	£5,170	Morton on Swale	Online help	Option to integrate external software*
Aubergine	9-10 weeks	£899	Key content free	£299 Plus domain name renewal (£100)	£4,990	Leighton Linlade Town Council Teignmouth Council	Email support. Free monthly online training Free knowledge bank	Integral form builder module (Unlimited responses) £50
Parish Online	4-6 weeks	£500	Key content free	£500	£6,740	Stratford on Avon TC	Free knowledge bank. Email support.	Option to integrate external software*
Netwise	3 weeks	£599	Not stated	£330	£5,309	Evesham TC	Phone and email support	Option to integrate external software*

* Where other software has to be used for online forms, the basic Jotform subscription of £174 per year has been used.