



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation	Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	9 March 2017

Investing in our IT infrastructure

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the purchase of new server and storage technologies so that the Council's IT infrastructure is fit for purpose.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 An efficient and stable core IT infrastructure which will support the Council's current and future requirements for the next five years and enable the expansion of Cloud services in future infrastructure upgrades.
- 2.2 A change in business continuity facilities from file server to virtual server backups increasing the availability of services outside of normal operating times and improvements to the recovery times in the event of failure.

3. Recommendation/s

- 3.1 That approval is given to proceed with the purchase of new server and storage technologies under the exemption to Contract Procedures contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules; on the grounds that exemptions may apply where "a framework agreement is available that necessitates the Council not having to go out to tender and the goods, works and services will still provide the Council with best value for money".

4. Background

- 4.1** The current IT server and storage estate is now due for replacement. Whilst the technology being used is still relevant, the hardware needs to be upgraded in order to ensure a stable and reliable platform to support the Council's requirements for the next five years.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** The current IT server estate is now at the end of its useful life and in need of replacement.
- 5.2** The current infrastructure uses shared storage for its server and virtual PC estate. This is leading to an excessive use of disk storage and causing performance problems. Service delivery is seeing a detrimental impact and therefore it is imperative we progress with an appropriate solution promptly.
- 5.3** The proposed infrastructure, costing £205,000, will have dedicated storage for both the server and the virtual PC estate which will significantly reduce the impact of similar performance problems occurring in the future.
- 5.4** The current virtualisation technologies being used are still the most effective means of delivering Council services and future agile needs.
- 5.5** The Crown Commercial Services (CCS) framework is being used for the procurement using framework RM3733 technology products 2, Lot 3 which is combined hardware and software. Detailed discussions with CCS and our IT Systems/Software Manager have resulted in the use of the above framework being the preferred approach to ensure the correct solution is procured and value for money is achieved.
- 5.6** Proposed implementation for the new server and storage technologies will be April 2017.

6. Delegated functions

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To consider departures from Rules relating to financial and contractual matters if appropriate."

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	<p>The Investment – IT Strategy Reserve will fund the cost of the proposed infrastructure and all costs will be incurred in 2017/18.</p> <p>The breakdown of the estimated costs are as follows:-</p> <p>Physical Servers and storage = £117,000 Thin clients = £50,000 Backup environment = £38,000 Total Estimated Cost = £205,000</p>
Legal	<p>A contract for the purchase and implementation of the IT equipment will be entered into with the successful supplier which complies with the Council's Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules.</p>

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
climate change	x
data protection	✓

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection

List of appendices