
Meeting: Executive

Date: 23 August 2011

Subject: ICT Infrastructure Capital Scheme for ICT Stability

Report of: Cllr Maurice Jones, Executive Member for Corporate Resources

Summary: This report seeks Executive approval for a variation to the ICT Infrastructure Capital Scheme to fund the work required to stabilise and secure the operation of the Council's current ICT systems.

Advising Officer: John Unsworth, Assistant Chief Executive - Resources

Contact Officer: Goy Roper, ICT Stability Programme Director

Public/Exempt: Public.

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Executive

Key Decision No

**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in
(if appropriate)** This report is urgent and exempt from call in due to the tight project timescales required to address existing ICT system problems.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Council's over-arching priority is to efficiently and effectively provide a range of services to the citizens of Central Bedfordshire, and through those services make a significant improvement to the lives of all those people.

In delivering its core services, the Council needs to be businesslike and responsive. A modern local authority relies heavily on ICT systems both to run the organisation and to deliver its services, often in real-time where the protection of vulnerable clients is concerned. The ICT Stability Programme has been designed to bring the CBC ICT infrastructure to a state where it supports the Council in delivering its services, and continues to operate in a safe and stable fashion into the future, through continuing good operational practices.

Financial:

Additional capital funding will be required to accommodate the implementation costs by increasing the existing ICT Infrastructure Capital Scheme. The financial details are contained in the attached Business Case. This capital scheme will be funded through additional capital borrowing or use of our own funds.

Legal:

As the value of the individual work streams and work packages will be below the EU threshold, a full Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) tendering process will not be required. Suppliers will be chosen from existing contracts and procurement frameworks.

Risk Management:

The Council suffered a major (6-day) ICT outage in February 2010 and a significant number of shorter outages since that time. The instability of the ICT infrastructure was identified as a top priority issue to be addressed by the Authority at the beginning of 2011, and this programme addresses the highest risk items within that infrastructure and the ICT service, through a carefully assessed and externally-assured approach.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

No staffing reductions are planned as part of this programme.

Equalities/Human Rights:

In developing the ICT Infrastructure Capital Scheme for ICT Stability, the Council must ensure that decisions are made in such a way as to minimise unfairness, and that there is not a disproportionately negative effect on people from different ethnic groups, disabled people, and men and women.

The statutory equality duties must be exercised in substance, with rigour and an open mind. To ensure that they have complied with the equality duties, and to ensure that any decision made does not unfairly discriminate, public authorities should:

- carry out robust equality impact assessments and consult and involve relevant stakeholders as part of the decision-making process;
- consider all relevant, available information in order to anticipate any likely negative impact and to seek to avoid that negative impact by taking alternative courses of action wherever possible;
- keep an adequate record showing that they had actually considered their equality duties and pondered relevant questions; and
- be rigorous in both inquiring and reporting to Members the outcome of the assessment and the legal duties. When decisions are made, decision makers must have the relevant data, including the results of equality impact assessment, and of consultation and involvement, to ensure they reach an informed decision.

Community Safety:

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council has a duty to consider community safety issues across all of its functions. In developing and implementing the detailed business case, implications will be carefully considered to ensure compliance with the Community Safety Partnership's priorities and plans as endorsed by this Council.

Sustainability:

None.

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Comments:

- This report has not been presented to Overview and Scrutiny due to the tight project timescales required to address existing ICT system problems but will be considered within the Corporate Services recovery programme.

RECOMMENDATION:

that the Executive recommends to Council to approve an increase to the existing ICT Infrastructure Capital Scheme of £559k as proposed in the attached Business Case.

Reason for Recommendation:	To enable officers to swiftly allocate sufficient funding to progress the successful delivery of a fit for purpose ICT Infrastructure. Fit for purpose means that users of the infrastructure, citizens, partner organisations, suppliers, officers and members should expect to carry out their business requirements without being restricted by the infrastructure environment.
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Appendices:

Appendix A – ICT Stability Programme Business Case

Location of papers: CBC network