

REPORT TO: Policy and Resources Committee - 21 April 2003
REPORT ON: Replacement and Consolidation of Corporate Unix Servers
REPORT BY: Head of Information Technology
REPORT NO: 270-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek Committee approval for the replacement and consolidation of several corporate unix servers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is recommended to :

- i) Approve purchase of hardware and software from I.B.M. Limited, which will allow the I.T. Division to consolidate a number of aging unix servers onto one IBM eServer Z800 computer, detailed in Appendix 1;

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The initial cost of £75,000 will be met from the 2002/03 I.T. Division Revenue budget, and the annual cost of £47,500, from 2003/04 onwards will be met from the annual I.T. Division Revenue budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 For the operation and maintenance of a wide range of I.T. equipment and support systems, consideration will be given in support of all service developments in line with the requirements of Local Agenda 21.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 During the implementation of I.T. equipment and services, ongoing consideration will be given to the Council's Equal Opportunities Policies in the preparation of any resultant new Divisional practices affecting I.T. staff duties and opportunities.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Since Local Government re-organisation in 1996 the council has used a ever growing number of unix based computers to run the Council's main corporate computing workload. These computers are reaching the end of their useful life and require to be replaced.
- 6.2 With the advent of the e-Government initiative, highly available systems will be required to service the needs of the citizen. Computers in the proposed IBM Z-series are the most reliable computers available today. They have a measured mean time between hardware failure of approximately 55 years due to the considerable amount of fault tolerance built into them.
- 6.3 As the use of the internet and email has grown, so has the number of computers needed to run these services. There has also been a requirement for a much higher level of security. This has resulted in pressure on physical space, problems with temperature control and power in the authority's main computer room. These are being addressed by the construction of a new computer suite on floor 1 of Tayside House. However, with the growth in computing requirements continuing, it is essential that computers (servers) are consolidated whenever possible.
- 6.4 The proposed Z800 computer runs the open source Linux operating system that has already been successfully used by the council for its cash receipting system. The use of this operating system is expected to reduce ongoing costs over the longer term. Other consolidation solutions were investigated but none provided the flexibility and reliability of the IBM solution.
- 6.5 As the proposed system has fewer much more powerful processors ongoing software costs licensed by the number of processors in use (such as Oracle) will be reduced.
- 6.6 From discussions with the supplier (IBM LTD), it has been confirmed that this system will be able to accommodate the proposed new integrated Payroll and Personnel "Resourcelink" package from "Northgate Information Solutions",.

7.0 PROPOSAL

- 7.1 The proposal recommended for approval is considered to be the most advantageous and represent the overall best value purchase at this time.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been fully consulted in the preparation of this report and are in full agreement with its proposals.

NOTE

No background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report).

In view of the timescales involved this report was approved by the Head of Information Technology in consultation with the Convener and the opposition spokespersons

Signed

Mr. David White Head of Information Technology

Date: 14 March 2003

Signed

Julia Sturrock
Convener – Policy and Resources Committee

Date 18 March 2003

Signed

John Corrigan
Spokesperson S.N.P Group

Date 19 March 2003

Signed

Bruce Mackie
Spokesperson Conservative Group

Date 19 March 2003

APPENDIX 1

Product Description	Quantity
IBM eServer Z800	1
IBM ESS F20 580GB disc system	1
IBM 3590 Enterprise Tape Drive	1