

ITEM No ...9.....

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25 OCTOBER 2021

REPORT ON: CORPORATE IT STORAGE UPGRADE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 293-2021

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the purchase of new storage system to replace ageing equipment that stores backups, archive files and supports many applications used across the Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee -

- Agree to the purchase of IBM Storage Solution.
- Remit the Head of Customer Services & IT to purchase IBM Storage Solution and support to be compliantly procured through Crown Commercial Services Network Services framework.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The IBM storage system and support will cost £112,805 and will be met from IT capital budget
- 3.2 Staffing costs to support the deployment of the products to be met from existing Customer Services and IT staffing budgets.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's IT Strategy which was approved at Policy and Resources Committee on 18 February 2019 (Report 81-2019), The Council's IT strategy sets out to deliver mobile and flexibly accessible services through low cost corporately deployed solutions. IT services requiring to be available anytime anywhere.
- 4.2 Dundee City Council currently utilises two different storage systems for backup data, archiving of historic files and storing server images. One of these platforms is due to fall out of support later this year and was purchased more than 6 years ago. The other system is due to fall out of support next year and is 5 years old. Both systems are reaching the end of their lifespan and will not be supported any longer by the manufacturer.
- 4.3 The storage of backup data is critical to the Council's IT resilience. It is essential to have a robust, secure and reliable system to hold this backup data. Replacing the ageing systems with a new modern system will ensure the backups continue to be secure and available when they are required.
- 4.4 The amount of data that is being stored in the Council's data centres is increasing. The new system will provide increased capacity for current and future requirements. By consolidating the two existing systems into one new system the Council will reduce maintenance costs and administration time. It will also simplify management of the storage.

- 4.5 Archiving of data is important to ensure we meet statutory rules and regulations as well as keeping required historical data. Doing this in an efficient and cost-effective way while maintaining security and reliability is crucial. The new IBM storage solution meets and exceeds these criteria. Future expansion of the system is supported to allow increased storage capacity as well as improved performance for future workloads.
- 4.6 The new storage solution will lead to a reduction in the physical capacity required to house Council I.T with future savings anticipated in operating the Councils data centres.
- 4.7 Purchasing this new storage hardware allows the Council to take advantage of the latest storage technologies and the benefits this provides. This includes increased capacity at reduced running cost, better power efficiency, improved reliability and performance as well as introducing the latest security features.
- 4.8 A Procurement exercise was carried out on the Crown Commercial Services Technology Products and Associated Services framework to procure the best value system for the Council. This exercise evaluated five suppliers proposing different solutions. After the quality and price evaluation was carried out the preferred bidder is Specialist Computer Centres with the IBM Storage Solution.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Council Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ROBERT EMMOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

6 OCTOBER 2021