

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21st November, 2022

REPORT ON: CORPORATE IT DATA STORAGE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT NO: 310-2022

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the purchase of a new data storage hardware to replace ageing equipment that is approaching end of life and the support will expire in 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee -

- Agree to the purchase of new data storage.
- Remit the Head of Customer Services & IT to purchase a data storage platform, to be compliantly procured through NHS Digital Workplace Solutions framework.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The storage hardware is estimated to cost £240,000 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 The current storage hardware platform is an important and integral part of Council IT systems. This platform is the primary location for storage of data for business critical applications run by the Council, including Housing, Payroll, Pensions and Planning. It is also the main storage location for files and databases used across all Council service areas. The hardware is reaching end of life and needs to be replaced to ensure high levels of service and reliability can be maintained.
- 4.3 The maintenance support for the hardware is due to expire in June 2023. There is a high cost to renew this support and it is felt that due to the age of the hardware this would not be a cost-effective option.
- 4.4 The new storage hardware will provide increased capacity for Council data. Although there will be some reduction in storage requirements with the use of cloud technologies such as Office 365, there is a continued demand for more data storage. The extra storage is also required to provide capacity for disaster recovery and data protection technologies to help safeguard the Council data from ransomware and other cyber-attacks.
- 4.5 The new storage hardware will lead to a reduction in the physical space required to house Council I.T, with reduced future savings anticipated in operating the Council's data centres.

- 4.6 The new storage hardware to be procured will require to integrate seamlessly with the Councils wider IT infrastructure and its implementation will be managed to cause minimal disruption to the Councils IT systems, processes and data.
- 4.7 A Procurement exercise will be carried out on the NHS Digital Workplace Solutions framework to procure the best value solution for the Council.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Council Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

ROBERT EMMOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Date: 2 NOVEMBER 2022