

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 13 NOVEMBER 2000

REPORT ON: PURCHASE OF COMPUTER PACKAGE FOR FINANCE DEPARTMENT NON-DOMESTIC RATES SYSTEM

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT NO: 693-2000

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To obtain authorisation for the Director of Finance to negotiate and purchase a computer software package in respect of the billing and collection of Non-Domestic Rates.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Director of Finance be authorised to purchase the necessary computer software package to satisfy the Non-Domestic Rates billing and collection requirements of the Finance Department's Revenues Division.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of purchasing the First Software Non-Domestic Rates software package including implementation, data conversion and training is estimated to be in the region of £47,000 which will be met from the Council's General Contingency in the current financial year.

3.2 The annual recurring maintenance and database administration associated with the software package is estimated to be in the order of £2,500 in a full financial year and provision has already been included in the Revenue Budget for the existing software package.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

None.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None.

6 BACKGROUND

6.1 The present Non-Domestic Rating system has fallen behind its competitors in terms of functionality. In addition, the database it is built on has become unstable and unreliable resulting in increased down-time and data errors. At present additional staff resources have to be found to regularly check data in order to ensure the integrity of the system.

6.2 The Council recently purchased the First Software Council Tax, Council Tax Benefit and Housing Benefit software package which is due to go live in December 2000. Moving Non-Domestic Rates to the same suite of software products not only

rationalises both the suppliers and therefore the maintenance of the systems but also in the medium term will allow better utilisation of staff resources.

- 6.3 The contract with the present supplier of Non-Domestic Rates software expires at 31 March 2001 therefore it would be desirable to have the new system operational from the start of the financial year 2001/2002.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive and the Acting Director of Information Technology have been consulted on the preparation of this report.

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DAVID K DORWARD DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	DAVID WHITE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.