East Northamptonshire Council

Scrutiny Committee – 26 September 2011

ICT Capital Programme

Purpose of report: To respond to a request from Scrutiny Committee members for more detailed information about the composition of the approved ICT Capital Programme for ICT projects.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1: ICT Capital Programme

1.0 Background

1.1 At the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4 April 2011, members raised concerns about the high level of funding for ICT and asked that a report be brought to the committee with more detail (minute 458 refers).

1.2 ICT Services require a capital programme to be able to replace equipment and software as needed and to fund projects both within ICT and for the service areas.

1.3 The current replacement schedule specifies the life expectancy of hardware to be anywhere from 3 years to 7 years depending on the cost of any third party support contracts, the purpose of the hardware and the importance it has to the authority.

1.4 The programme is created through working with service managers as well as partner councils and third party suppliers. The programme goes through a rigorous process, via Finance, the Corporate Management team (CMT) and the Policy and Resources Committee before being agreed by the council for the next 12 month financial period.

2.0 Current Programme

2.1 The current ICT capital programme is broken down into project areas such as Replacement Printers, Replacement Sun Server etc. This can all be seen in appendix 1 and paragraph 2.3. This was requested at a Policy and Resources Committee meeting so more detail was shown against each of the replacement projects. The programme runs for approximately 10 years to mirror the longer tern capital planning that is included in the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, with the majority of the expenditure falling into the Future Years column.

2.2 The difficulty experienced by ICT is that it is relatively straight forward to predict the capital requirements for replacements and projects for the first three years – after this period the uncertainty of how technologies will evolve and the introduction of new technologies as well as the strategic direction of the council and its constituent service areas makes it necessary for estimates to be used. This uncertainty is also the main reason why the ICT capital programme is reviewed and revised each year and submitted to CMT as well as to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

2.3 The 2011/12 programme is currently set at £446,100 – this is to cover the following projects:
- Content Management System – This is a carry forward for a potential new payment engine for the website as requested by Customer Services and Revenues and Benefits, to enable the council to take more payments via the website.
- Replacement PCs Monitors and Laptops – PCs are replaced every 5/6 years, any longer and the costs of repairs and speed of the PCs increases the costs

to the authority. Laptops are replaced every 4 years and monitors are replaced only when broken. 2011/12 is higher than the previous year due to members laptops needing to be replaced.

- Replacement Printers and Scanners – this is to replace all of the existing desktop printers with multi function devices to help reduce the revenue costs of small printers to the council.
- Replacement Sun Server – This server holds all of the data and software for the Revenues and Benefits service. The server is now approaching eight years old and has to be replaced this year as the Capita Software is no longer compatible with the server due to its age.
- Data Infrastructure Equipment - £20,000 of this is carried forward from 2010/11 – it is to improve the resilience of our data through improved backups and firewall security.
- Licences – This expenditure is required to ensure the council is operating legally compliant software and is maintaining the support framework with regard to licences such as Microsoft and other enterprise and site licences.
- Storage/Replacement SAN – The Storage Area Network (SAN) is the main repository for all of the council's data. Nearly all of the council's servers use the SAN to hold the data they need. The current SAN is coming to the end of its supported life and needs to be replaced. Discussions with Wellingborough and Corby Council are taking place to jointly procure a solution.
- Security Solutions/Gov Connect - With the changes each year to the Government Connect requirements this £10,000 is there to make sure we can implement any new requirements and continue to meet the existing requirements that we are working on. Compliance with Gov Connect is not optional as without it the council would not be able to operate its benefits systems.
- CAPS Solutions/ERMS – This was mostly carried forward from 2010/11 as due to staff turnover in the team there was insufficient staff resources to deliver the project in year.
- Revenues and Benefits Upgrade – This is to move to the latest version of Ingress as required to support the updates coming in September as well as the implementation of new modules as required by Revenues and Benefits.

2.4   Where possible the ICT Capital programme is aligned to the capital programme at the Borough Council of Wellingborough to further leverage the economies of scale from the shared ICT Service. Joint procurement has continued to deliver savings to both partners.

3.0   Equality and Diversity Implications

3.1   There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the content of this report. The report is for information.

4.0   Legal Implications

4.1   There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report. The report is for information.

5.0   Risk Management

5.1   There are no significant risks identified in this report. The report is for information.

6.0   Financial Implications

6.1   There are no additional financial implications arising from this report, the current capital programme for 2011/12 was approved as part of the budget setting process. Future years' expenditure is an estimate, and does not necessarily represent the actual capital budget that will be approved in subsequent years, nor is it committed. The capital need is examined each year as part of the budget setting process and is

matched to projects to be delivered in the year. The longer term estimates do allow the council to consider the potential future costs of maintaining or replacing these software systems.

6.2 The council has significant investments in ICT software systems to enable appropriate levels of services to be delivered to our customers. These all have a finite life and the capital programme has review points in future years to assess the software and the market.

7.0 Corporate Outcomes

7.1 The ICT capital programme helps deliver the following corporate outcomes:
- Effective Management
- Good use of resources
- Effective business continuity

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 The committee is recommended to note the report.

(Reason – this report is in response to a request for information, no decision is required)

Legal	Power:	
	Other considerations:	
Background Papers:		
Person Originating Report: Gareth Jones – Head of ICT Services		
Date: 11 August 2011		
CFO		**MO**		**CX**	

Appendix 1

ICT Capital Programme 2011/12

Cost Centre	Corporate Systems	2010/11 Current Budget £	2010/11 Estimated Outturn £	2011/12 Estimate £	2012/13 Estimate £	2013/14 Estimate £	2014/15 Estimate £	Future Years Estimate £
JCJ389	Content Management System	20,000	4,340	10,000				
JCJ409	Replacement PC'S, Monitors & Laptops	39,000	39,000	56,500	39,000	25,000	25,000	117,500
JCJ410	Replacement Printers & Scanners	30,000	-	33,000	19,000	15,000	15,000	58,000
JCJ411	Replacement Servers	35,000	10,000	20,000	45,000	10,000	10,000	80,000
JCJ412	Replacement Sun Server	25,000	3,600	21,400				30,000
JCJ413	UPS Equipment				10,000			20,000
JCJ414	Data Infrastructure Equipment	20,000	-	28,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	60,000
JCJ416	Licences	115,000	46,300	73,700	30,000	40,000	50,000	150,000
JCJ417	Storage/Replacement SAN	26,000	-	111,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	60,000
JCJ418	Council Chamber Project Screen	40,000	40,000			25,000		15,000
JCJ420	2008/09 Network Cables & Switches	18,000	-					
JCJ423	Security Systems/GovConnect			10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000
JCJ431	ESRI - GIS Upgrade					70,000		70,000
JCJ432	CAPS Solutions/ERMS	40,000	7,850	52,500	200,000	20,000		350,000
JCJ433	Revenues and Benefits Upgrade	10,000	10,000	30,000				60,000
JCJ436	CRM Upgrades	25,000	26,500				70,000	85,000
JCJ435	Telephone System	5,000	-					135,000
JCJ437	Self Serve		38,000					
	Total	448,000	225,590	446,100	393,000	240,000	205,000	1,330,500

*Future year's column represents the estimated capital requirements in years 5-10