



Finance and Performance Sub Committee 9 September 2020

ICT Development Pool Scheme

Purpose of report

To advise and seek authorisation from Members for the funding needed to deliver the replacement of the Data Storage Server.

1.0 Background

1.1 The current NetApp Storage Area Network (SAN) – which is a data storage server - at East Northamptonshire Council will be End of Life (EOL) from 31st December 2020. The current maintenance contract for this equipment expires on 30th September 2020. With the NetApp going EOL, ENC is unable to take out a new maintenance contract unless the current NetApp has been upgraded. The NetApp currently holds all the shared drives, which are business critical. Provision exists within the Development Pool to fund the purchase of new hardware costing £45k. The hardware is a like for like IBM system at half the cost of a replacement NetApp Server.

2.0 Scope and Factors of a New Contract

2.1 The following are considered to be essential for purchasing this hardware:

- Current Hardware will be End of Life on 31st December 2020.
- The Council is unable to take out a maintenance contract due to the hardware being EOL
- NetApp hardware is too expensive, the solution ICT is recommending is a better solution and puts ENC in a very good position moving into the new unitary authority
- Full replacement will minimise any risk of hardware failure and impact to officers while trying to find replacement parts.

2.2 The following factors need to be taken into account in whatever option is taken forward:

- **Cost** – the new equipment being purchased is half the cost of a new NetApp and with three years' warranty included there will be a saving of £10k per annum in respect of maintenance cost.
- **Performance** – the hardware being purchased provides a superior performance over the current set up meaning a better experience for the end user.
- **Resilience** – the hardware must be able to support Council and Unitary business continuity and emergency plans.
- **Sustainability and supportability** – the SAN being proposed is business critical and will support ENC / North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority for the next five years; the purchase is based on being able to support the current ENC set up and expansion for unitary use.

3.0 Options Explored

3.1 Option 1: Do Nothing – continue with NetApp

As stated earlier, the current maintenance contract expires on 30th September 2020. There will be a significant risk if this system is not upgraded. With the hardware being End of Life, finding parts to fix any issues may take days and will severely impact the deliverables to the business. This would put the Council at an unacceptable level of exposure in terms of service provision, financial impact and reputational damage.

3.2 Option 2: Purchase new hardware.

There is an option to purchase a new more efficient server. Using a procurement framework created by Kent County Council we can appoint an appropriate supplier.

The benefits of this options are:

1. Hardware is delivered at an acceptable cost.
2. There is proven service delivery capability from the supplier.
3. There is proven value for money from the supplier.
4. It will align with the infrastructure being developed for the new unitary authority.

The risks and mitigations of this option are:

1. Migration of data will be a risk, but a full backup of the data will take place before migration.
2. Out of hours working will be required to prevent disruption to office working hours.
3. There is the potential for outages during testing and migration. This can be managed by out of hours working with associated communications and a suitable timeframe for implementation.

4.0 Work Undertaken to Date

4.1 There has been engagement with the Technical Design Authority (TDA) set up as part of the Future Northants programme and there have been no objections to this proposal.

4.2 Quotations were sought from 3 suppliers in accordance with the Council's procurement regulations with the most economically advantageous quote being the proposed solution.

5.0 Privacy Impact Implications

5.1 There are no privacy implications as a result of this report.

6.0 Health Impact Implications

6.1 There are no health impact implications arising from this report.

7.0 Equalities and Diversity Implications

7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 The main risks associated with each of the options outlined have been highlighted in the main body of the report at section 3.2.

10.0 Resource and Financial Implications

10.1 The one-off capital costs for the proposed solution in 2020/21 for ENC are £45k. The Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by Full Council on 2nd March 2020 includes £125k in the Development Pool for ICT capital projects. A further £77.5k was approved as a carry forward to the Development Pool for ICT capital projects by the Policy and Resources Committee on 13th July 2020.

10.2 At its meeting on 26th May 2020 this Committee approved a transfer of £39.8k to the Capital Programme in respect of the replacement of the ICT Network Provision Contract, leaving a balance of £162.7k in the Development Pool. Approval is requested to transfer £45k from this balance for ICT capital projects to the Approved Capital Programme so that the project can proceed.

11.0 Constitutional Implications

11.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

12.0 Implications for our Customers

12.1 There are no direct customer services implications arising from this report.

13.0 Corporate Outcomes

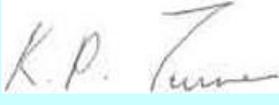
13.1 The proposals in this report will meet the Corporate Outcomes of:

- Good Value for Money
- High Quality Service Delivery
- Effective Management by ensuring transparency in decision making

14.0 Recommendations

14.1 The Finance and Performance Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- Approve option 2 as outlined in the report to purchase the new hardware.
- Approve the movement of ICT capital funding totalling £45k from the Development Pool for ICT Capital Projects into the Approved Capital Programme.

Legal	Power:				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers:					
Person Originating Report:		Rob Scott – ICT Business Support Manager			
		☎ 01832 742203 ✉ rscott@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk			
Date: 27 August 2020					
CFO (Deputy) 01/09/20		MO (Deputy) 01/09/20		CX 01/09/20	