



CABINET
DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 2nd August 2018

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st August 2018 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

PRESENT: Councillor Oxby (in the Chair)
Councillors Bolton, Hyldon-King, Patrick, Watson, K. Wheatley and P. Wheatley.

DN.14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Rogers for this meeting.

DN.15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made with regards to any items on the agenda.

DN.16

MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 2nd July 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

DN.17

MICROSOFT WINDOWS 10 AND MICROSOFT OFFICE UPGRADE

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources seeking approval for an upgrade to the Councils IT current operating systems.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Director of Finance, Operations and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources be authorised to commence a procurement exercise to invest in the latest version of 620 Microsoft Windows 10 Professional and 2173 Microsoft Office 2016 standard, as a common set of software for all users and systems.**
- (2) That the Director of Finance, Operations and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources be authorised to award such contract.**
- (3) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute all documentation in connection with the award.**

REASON FOR DECISION – The recommendations of this report will allow for the procurement to be commenced for Microsoft Licensing and for an award decision to be made. This will allow time to complete the procurement and award the new contract in time for full implementation of the new licensing arrangements before the current operating system becomes unsupported.

Failure to ensure the Council maintains an in-productions Microsoft Operating system and Office suite could result in a situation where key technologies are unsupported and insecure. Any inability to allow collaboration within systems could result in system unavailability, leading to the Council being unable to deliver key front line services and statutory requirements. The Council would also be at risk of failure to comply with security requirements from central government, leading to unstable or at worst unavailable connectivity to central government departments and the Public Services Network. This will cause reputational damage to the Council.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – A number of options were considered in relation to the future Microsoft Licensing arrangements.

These were:

- Do nothing - this option is considered as not to be a viable option as it is necessary to update and maintain the ICT software, purchasing separately is not value for money. The Council would lose the use of ICT and cease to operate as a modern functioning council if it did not take action in response to the ceasing of the current support.
- Procure remaining 620 x Microsoft Windows and install Open Source alternatives, such as Lotus Symphony, Open Office and Libre Office. This option would result in limited or no support and reduced functionality to existing council systems. e.g. (Civica, HR, Capita.Net, to name but a few)
- Replace the estate with 2173 x Microsoft M365, cloud based computing, this is inclusive of Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office. Thought to be cost prohibitive at around £3M.
- Procure remaining 620 x Microsoft Windows 10 Pro and 2173 x latest Cloud based Microsoft Office suite O365. Thought to be cost prohibitive at around £3M.

DN.18

2017/18 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources detailing the treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during 2017/18.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and is referred to Full Council for approval.

REASON FOR DECISION – The Council’s treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management (“the Code”), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on the likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

The appendix attached details how the composition of counterparties utilised for investments changed over the course of the year as the risk environment altered as a consequence of the EU Referendum.

During 2017-18 Temporary short-term borrowing was taken from other local authorities in preference to Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) although as stated above) some longer term loans were also taken. This allowed loan terms to be matched to immediate cash flow need and at a lower rate than would have been available via PWLB. Future decisions will continue to be taken after a review of other options available to us in order to determine the best option in terms of value and fit with our projected short-term needs.

THE COMMERCIAL PLAN

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources seeking approval for a Commercial Approach that includes a new method of identifying, managing and implementing ideas which provide commercial opportunities.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the adoption of the Commercial Approach be approved.**
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Finance, Resources and Operations, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources, the authority to take future decisions relating to the implementation of the commercial approach, as defined in the Gateway Process and as outlined in Appendix 1, of the report now submitted.**
- (3) That a further report be received by Cabinet within twelve months, setting out proposed commercial cases for change.**

REASON FOR DECISION – The Council is committed to becoming a resilient and self-sustaining organisation by 2020. The Council needs to develop and implement commercial opportunities to maximise its limited resources, skills and funds to best effect. In pursuing commercial opportunities the Council will seek both financial and social returns in order to realise its ambition of delivering a Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities and supporting our Outcomes Based Accountability framework.

Being commercial for the Council is a mind-set about becoming more business-like, whilst retaining a strong public service ethos. This means striving for both a financial and a social return. Seeking to grow its income base and make efficiency savings in a variety of ways in order to be able to both commission universal delivery for all and also offer optional additional traded services for those residents and businesses that are ready to buy.

There is a clear commitment within the Council to make the transformation to a sustainable organisation by 2020. At the same time, there is also a recognition that this transformation will not happen overnight, and that in order to drive the most positive outcomes for the Council, evaluation and prioritisation of commercial opportunities will be key. The changing environment within which the Council operates necessitates change and innovation, however, resources are limited.

Therefore, it is imperative that the Council adopts a robust process for evaluating opportunities to ensure that investment (i.e. capital and time) is made in those areas most likely to deliver the Council's priority outcomes, whilst seeking to deliver both financial and social returns.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

There is an option to maintain our existing position in relation to commercialism, and undertake no further activity or explore the wider opportunities open to us.

The 'do nothing' option was considered, but not deemed an appropriate course of action.