

Subject: Efficiency Savings Members ICT
Provision

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 17th November 2010

Report of: Head of Customer Services & ICT

Portfolio

Holder: Customer Services

Key Decision: No

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek cabinet approval for the proposed members ICT provision so that the new solution can be purchased and implemented.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-

- Delivering quality Services to our customers
- Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
- Promoting the Borough
- Providing value for money services

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Financial exposure to Rossendale if the Members ICT provision is not affordable.

3.2 Failure to address individual member disabilities.

3.3 Members unable to access ICT facilities.

3.4 Loss of commercial opportunity with regard to the Council Chamber, the rentable value could be increased with the availability of internet access.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 The provision of ICT for members was investigated in order to determine the future requirements while at the same time ensuring that any new solution is cost effective. At present there is no budget that has been allocated to fund

ICT for members, so the future solution has to be cost effective. In the past the member's laptops had been funded by an e-government grant that is no longer available. In addition as part of the wider Customer Services and ICT budget reductions the members ICT solution also had to take into account the future revenue costs in terms of affordability and sustainability.

In order to look at the various options consultation was carried out with a variety of groups such as the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services and the member development working group which contains a cross party composition. The member development meetings were held on the 14/01/2010 and the 15/7/2010 the minutes of both meetings have been attached to the report for reference. In addition meetings were held with the respective political groups so that the proposed way forward could be explained to all the members and more importantly the costs and rationale behind the different options. Meetings were held on the 9/9/2010 with both the Labour and Conservative Group.

4.2 With the advent of new technology there are a variety of ICT options that can be implemented that allow flexibility while at the same time providing best value for the Council. From the consultations carried out it became evident that the members require a flexible solution in order to gain access to the following:

- Email
- Reports
- RBC Intranet / SharePoint
- File sharing
- All members to have their own dedicated personal storage
- Hard copy prints still need to be made available as an alternative
- ICT facilities in the Chamber / Mayors room
- Internet access in the Chamber
- Printing facilities in the Chamber
- Minimise or reduce the work of the courier
- ICT drop in facilities to be available in other buildings if possible
- ICT member training individually and based on demand

Any new solution has to try and meet the above requirements, another key area was try and make use of the members existing facilities they have at home such as computers and broadband connections, rather than having a fixed corporate solution that everybody is forced to have. Members were very keen to keep costs to a minimum and they felt that the majority of people have access to their own internet connection.

The member development group also wanted ICT facilities to be made available in the Council Chamber and the Mayors Parlor at Futures Park. However, they did not want fixed points installing they wanted the flexibility to move computers around. It became evident that to enable this would require some form of network extension to the Futures Park building. To meet this requirement it has been decided to implement a wireless network solution in Futures Park, this will prevent any future costs of networking and installation when locations of the respective devices have to be changed.

The wireless solution will also make the Council Chamber more commercially attractive for people to want to rent it. The wifi access would make use of the existing RBC corporate internet pipe so there would be no additional internet costs, once the solution has been implemented. The wireless solution has been added to the planned network upgrade project and all these costs have been taken account of.

4.3 The Member Development Group recommended the ICT should include the following:

- Choice of Blackberry or mobile phone
- Provision of RSA token
- ICT facilities in the Chamber including computer and internet access
- Provision of a computer in other RBC facilities eg OSS
- Option for specific software where an individual need is established
- Provision to consider a computer if Blackberry not suitable
- No broadband payments to be made

Due to the very high costs associated with providing members with both a laptop and Blackberry, It was agreed by the member development group that members could choose either a Blackberry or a mobile phone. In certain cases if the provision of a laptop would be considered if a blackberry was not suitable for the individual. It was also agreed to cease the funding of member internet activity at home, the savings made here would be put towards the procurement of the new solution. Another important area taken into account was individual disability; as such some members had a particular need that had to be addressed with any required software.

The financial accountant is determining if there are any residual member development budgets that can be used to assist with the funding of the project. In addition money will be used from selling the old members equipment both laptops and phones to a third party agent.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

5.1 Financial implications are commented upon in the body of the report.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 There are no specific legal implications.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 There are no specific human resource implications.

8. RECOMMENDATION(S)

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the proposed members ICT solution.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

9.1 Consultation was carried out with the following groups:

- 1. Portfolio Holders for Resources and customer Services.
- 2. Member Development Group.

10. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Community Impact Assessment required **Yes**

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached **No**

11. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required **No**

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached **No**

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