

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



DATE	26th May 2009
PORTFOLIO	Customer Access and Community Engagement
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PC Replacement

PURPOSE

1. To seek approval for release of £79,000 allocated in the capital budget 2009-2010 for the replacement of Council PC's, Laptops and other IT hardware.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive approves the release of £79,000 allocated in the capital budget for PC replacements.
3. That the Executive approves the waiving of Standing Order 17 (Contracts exceeding £50,000 require Public Notices) in order that the Council can take advantage of the East Lancashire e-partnership's procurement auction exercise for IT Hardware.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

4. To replace Council PC's, laptops, member laptops and photocopiers that are over five years old and out of warranty.
5. PC replacement is a rolling capital programme. At a previous executive it has been agreed to replace the Councils PC stock over a five year rolling period. This used to be every three years.
6. To improve efficiency by replacing old equipment. As PC's age there is a reduction in performance resulting in slower access to corporate systems and applications. This problem is further augmented by new software systems and implementation of resource intensive applications, which require more processing power.
7. As all the equipment due for replacement is either out of warranty or is due to come out of warranty this year, it is important this equipment is replaced to avoid service units having to resort to paying for parts replacements from their revenue budgets.
8. Most of the equipment being replaced falls well below the Government Connect security standards and therefore needs upgrading to comply with the September 2009 Government Connect deadline.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

9. It is anticipated that the money will be spent on replacing 193 PC's, 37 staff laptops, 6 member laptops and 5 photo copier's.
10. The majority of PC replacements will be in Finance, Planning, Licensing and Housing service units. Priority will be given to front line services.
11. The PC's will be purchased from Hewlett Packard Direct (HP). HP were awarded the contract to supply the Council with PC's, Laptops and other IT hardware as part of the East Lancashire e-partnership procurement auction exercise that was conducted in November 2006.

The prices we are currently paying for the HP PC's are extremely competitive. There have been no service issues and the kit we purchase is reliable. The specification of PC we receive is higher than we originally agreed (so we're definitely getting VFM), upgrades are available if required.

The next OGC framework exercise will be conducted in November 2009 when the HP contract will be reviewed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

12. £79,000 has been allocated in the Capital programme 2009/2010 for the replacements.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13. None.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

14. Gordon Birtwistle Leader of the Council
Councillor Margaret Lishman – Deputy leader, executive member for resources
Councillor Jeff Sumner – Executive member customer access & community engagement
Councillor Peter Doyle – Chair of Better Services Scrutiny
Paul Chapman - Head of Information Services
Lindsey Cowburn – Senior Accountant, Accountancy Services
David Donlan – Accountancy Division Manager
Mick Cartledge - Director for Community Services

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

ALSO:

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Paul Chapman