

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESOURCES
19 MARCH 2014

EXECUTIVE
1 APRIL 2014

COUNCIL
8 APRIL 2014

ICT PROVISION FOR MEMBERS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information and feedback from the recent pilot with Leader and Portfolio Holders using iPad devices to access council emails, agendas and reports.
- 1.2 To seek approval to proceed with the provision of iPads to all Members following the Local Elections on 22 May 2014

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 From 2004 elected Members have been using an ICT solution provided by the Council to access emails and the Internet from their home location. Members have had a choice of using a council supplied laptop/desktop PC or using their own personal PC/laptop. In both cases secure access has been provided using Citrix thin client technology and a Digipass security token for user authentication. The council laptops were last replaced in 2008 and the majority of these devices are still in use today and are overdue for replacement. Devices that have become unserviceable in the interim have been replaced as required.
- 2.2 Members have had the option of using a desktop printer supplied by the Council to facilitate low volume printing of council documents and letters at home. Replacement cartridges have been supplied by ICT Services and recharged to the Members at cost.
- 2.3 Members elected to both Exeter City Council and Devon County Council access their City Council information using the Devon County supplied ICT hardware and broadband communications. All ICT costs are funded by DCC with the exception of the Digipass security token provided by ECC.
- 2.4 Current Member ICT provision is made up as follows:

Own PC	18
ECC Laptop	18
DCC PC	1
Members' Room	1
No ICT provision	1
Using an ECC printer	6

- 2.5 Members have been responsible for providing their own broadband service within their home and an additional payment of £7.50 per month per household has been added to their Members' allowance.
- 2.6 In addition to the aforementioned ICT solution, the Leader and Portfolio Holders have also been provided with a BlackBerry device to enable them to access emails and voice communication when away from the home or office.

3. OPTIONS

- 3.1 It has now reached the point where the existing laptops are at the end of their useful life. Therefore the Council has to consider whether to replace like for like or to explore alternative technologies. One of the key drivers for looking at alternatives is to provide a solution that allows Members to become more productive. The increase in e-enabled communication has impacted on Member time and any new solution must provide the facility to deal easily and quickly with work received electronically.
- 3.2 To continue to use laptops has security implications that could potentially affect the Council's PSN compliance. To continue to be compliant all Members must use an ECC managed device; meaning that "bring your own device" approach would no longer be viable. Therefore use of Members' own equipment cannot continue.
- 3.3 Some Members have also questioned the current mobility of their current laptops and have suggested that the market now offers alternative solutions that may better meet their requirement; such as tablets.
- 3.4 Since January 2014 the Leader and Portfolio Holders have been piloting the use of an iPad to access their email and council documents as an alternative to the PC/Laptop solution. Information from the pilot and Member feedback is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.5 The pilot has been extremely successful with Members being impressed by the speed and flexibility of the solution provided. In addition on a personal level many Members are already familiar with tablet technology.
- 3.6 The benefit of the Council moving to tablet technology is the ability to remotely monitor and lock down devices to ensure that we continue to meet our PSN obligations.
- 3.7 From a Member perspective the key benefits have been very much around flexibility around mobility, the replacement of bulky documents, much easier access to e-mails through a single sign on feature and a reduction in the complexity of use.
- 3.8 At present no allowance has been made for a print solution that will allow direct printing from a tablet. However if Members wish to purchase their own Wifi printers ICT will work with the individuals to provide a suitable solution. However Members wishing to print without purchasing a Wifi printer will be able to do so from their account in the Members' Room.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of providing the proposed solution is

Initial Capital Cost	£
Mobile Device Management software – MobileIron (inc. 3yrs support)	24,545
iPad Air with standard case	16,200
iPad Case/Keyboard	1,260
Total	42,005
Revenue Cost per annum	
Mobile Data SIM contract	4,000
Leader/Portfolio Holder Mobiles	324
Modern Gov App	2,100
Total	£6,424

Savings	£
Potential savings in the first year from implementing this solution are:	
Cease printing of council agendas	
Postage (80% of £6,400 total cost)	5,120
Print	12,000
Replacement of BlackBerrys	1,000
Members broadband allowance	3,200
Staff time (10 weeks per year @ £20k) – unrealisable in cash terms	0
Total	£21,320

4.2 In terms of capital expenditure, budget provision has already been made for the MobileIron software, therefore Members are asked to approve an additional £17,460 capital expenditure. The ongoing revenue costs of £6,424 will be covered by the savings made. However, the postage and print budgets have already been reduced in 2014-15, so a small additional revenue budget of £2,225 is requested to be funded from reserves.

4.3 In terms of the end user hardware the cost differential between providing a laptop or an iPad is cost neutral. Therefore the selection of device is not related to financial considerations.

4.4 The removal of the Members' broadband allowance of £7.50 is to pay for the 3G connection associated with every iPad. This will provide greater flexibility in allowing Members to access e-enabled services on the move.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is therefore recommended to Council that:

- we replace the current PC/Laptop solution with an iPad for all elected Members following the local elections on 22 May 2014,
- all council ICT equipment currently used by Members is to be returned to ICT Services,

- removal of the Members' current broadband allowance of £7.50pm, in favour of a 3G connection.
- BlackBerry devices provided to the Leader and Portfolio holders be replaced with a standard phone,
- Training be provided to all Members,
- Cease publishing paper copies of meeting paper (only copies of the agendas will be provided at each meeting) subject to the appropriate legislation being in place,
- Existing PC and printing facilities located in the Members' Room in the Civic Centre will be maintained.
- Approve additional capital funding of £17,460 and an additional revenue budget of £2,225 to cover the additional costs.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

S:PA/LP/ Committee/314SCR1
4.3.14

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:
None