

STRATA – JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (JSC)

DATE: 22 October 2015

REPORT OF: Chris Powell, Chief operating Officer, Strata.

SUBJECT: Progress report on Strata Implementation Plan

1. PURPOSE of the Report

To advise the JSC of the progress that Strata has made in the Implementation Plan

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the JSC note the content of the report.

3. Is this a Key Decision?

No

4. Is this an Executive/Cabinet or Council Function?

No

5. What are the resource implications including non financial resources?

All included within the Strata business case.

6. What are the legal aspects?

None

7 Report details

Progress on Implementation of Strata – October 2015

Overview...infrastructure in place; new roll out plan submitted

The three main themes for the Strata implementation are:

- Organisation
- Infrastructure
- Business Applications

Organisation:

- The management redundancies have been made and are on track.
- All roles within Strata are being investigated with a view to be able to offer Strata contracts to staff should it be affordable. The GIS team are being consulted at present.
- Service Desk, Project Reporting and Performance Reporting all operational.
- First end of year accounts for Strata completed and audited.

Infrastructure:

- New data centres have been built and are operational – all snagging issues have been dealt with.
- The data network being supplied by Virgin to connect all sites has been installed late and still has performance issues. This has caused delays to providing the faster internet connection East Devon and Teignbridge.
- Fast internet in place for Exeter and Teignbridge and will be for East Devon by end of October.
- New telecoms contract signed to bring all telecoms services under one supplier (Virgin) to save money and prepare for the move to digital telecoms.
- Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) is built and tested – suppliers are being called in to solve some issues with performance.
- Exeter servers are being moved from old set up to new Strata set up. This is a long process and is about 50% complete.
- Significant resources are having to be applied to the old IT infrastructures at the three councils to keep them running – the level of resource is a surprise and is causing problems for the Strata projects.

Software Applications

- User Acceptance Testing (UAT) of VDI applications started in September in Exeter and has produced a surprisingly large number of issues. These are being dealt with but each one takes time to solve and uses up key resources.
- A training plan for users has been created based on our recent experiences. This will result in fewer people being transferred each day so that more attention and time can be given to each user to ensure they can safely use the new technology.

- The outcome of the above two points is a new plan is being prepared for the roll out of the technology across the three councils. This plan will take into account lessons learned during the initial User Acceptance Testing and will take a more pessimistic view to ensure dates can be met.
- HR/payroll/time and attendance/door lock system , the first agreed formal shared IT project, has now started and the first scoping meeting held. The team are now investigating the best IT systems to use and will be creating a detailed business case to bring forward.
- Management of contract novation to Strata now more structured – moved from having to react to immediate contract issues to creating a schedule with 180 suppliers.
- Contract negotiation progress to be tracked to check what cost reductions are being achieved across all applications. We have had mixed results so far but still look to make major savings.
- Agreement reached in principle within Exeter to use the IDOX Uniform system for a range of services. This is a shared project and a business case is being created to enable the partners to understand the investment required.
- Other projects that may result in common IT systems are:
 - Bartec in-cab technology at ECC and recently at TDC. EDDC are considering their choices.
 - Payment systems ...under investigation to provide a common payment system for the three partners.
 - Umbraco web content system...at EDDC and ECC. TDC are considering.
 - CDP Housing Needs in place between TDC and ECC.
 - Capita Open Housing... common system being considered at EDDC and ECC.
 - Mobile working programme being established across the three partners to enable common solutions to be implemented.

8 DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION (CONFIRMATION OF DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL-IN)

The recommendation is to note the report and so there is no decision to call-in.