

STRATA – JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (JSC)

DATE: 3 December 2015

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

SUBJECT: Adoption of Idox Uniform in Exeter

1. PURPOSE of the Report

To seek approval for funding to deliver Idox Uniform in Exeter City Council, which will replace numerous line of business systems with a common platform used across all partners.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That JSC recommend to members of the 3 councils to approve budget for the implementation of Uniform within Exeter City Council. The budget required is:

		% Contribution		15/16 (£000's)	16/17 (£000's)	17/18 (£000's)	Total (£000's)
Uniform Implementation	EDDC	36.7	Capital	£34.9	£19	£19	£72.9
	ECC	35.9	Capital	£34.4	£19	£19	£72.4
	TDC	27.4	Capital	£30.2	£14	£14	£58.2
	Total	100		£99.5	£52	£52	£203.5
Data improvements	ECC	100	Capital	£100	£0	£0	£100

2.2 In addition Exeter City Council will require additional funding to improve the quality of data within the system. This has been estimated to be £100,000 to be funded by Exeter City Council.

3. Is this a Key Decision?

No

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

JEC approve and recommend to full council

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

Strata staff will be used for the implementation. There will also be a requirement for staff within service areas to assist Strata.

6. What are the legal aspects?

None

7 Report details

Current Situation and Issues

Exeter City Council had previously adopted an in-house strategy for developing their Planning, Building Control and Land Charges systems. This was mainly to compliment their new approach to delivering these services as a result of a Systems Thinking review.

Strata had concerns over proceeding with the in-house strategy for several reasons:

- The tool used to develop the applications is not widely used and has low market penetration
- There was an over reliance on in house expertise to develop the solution. Due to the obscurity of the development tool, replacing staff should they leave would be very difficult.
- Due to the size and complexity of the required solution, Strata would need an estimated 2 FTE's to develop and maintain the solution.
- Adopting an in house strategy would result in a divergence of software systems rather than a convergence, which is contrary to one of Strata's main objectives.

Proposed Situation / Solution

Teignbridge and East Devon both use an application called Uniform from Idox. This application has numerous modules covering most services which deal with land and property. These include:

- Planning (including appeals, enforcement, Listed Buildings, TPO's)
- Building Control
- Land Charges
- Environmental Health
- Estates Management
- Licensing
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Housing Grants
- Contaminated Land
- Spatial – Uniform has advanced mapping capabilities
- Web Applications allowing customer self service
- Enterprise – The Uniform workflow and management tool
- Connectors which allow integration between Uniform and other council systems
- Exacom – CIL management application which all 3 authorities can have at a reduced price

Following extensive negotiation with Idox, Strata has secured a very good deal which will allow Exeter to use all the above Uniform modules for no additional annual revenue costs over and above that already being paid by Teignbridge and East Devon.

It is proposed that Exeter use Uniform to not only replace the in-House developed system for Planning, Building Control and Land Charges, but also use Uniform to replace the other council systems in the above services.

This will have the following benefits:

- Create significant cost savings by terminating expensive annual maintenance contracts across other line of business systems.
- Adopt a common software package used by all three councils making it easier to support and integrate.
- Lays the foundation for greater sharing of staff across councils as staff will be familiar with one system
- Creates strategic benefits by facilitating better data sharing across departments

Data Issues relating to Exeter data.

An issue that has been identified during the course of Strata's investigations is the quality of data that resides in the existing Exeter Planning, Building Control and Land Charges systems. Data issues will have to be addressed if Uniform (or any system) is to perform to its maximum potential. It is recommended that a parallel project run alongside the Uniform implementation to clean the existing data. A full scoping exercise will be required to assess the cost of the data improvement, however an initial estimate is that £100,000 will be required to ensure the data is of sufficient quality to recognise the benefits of a new system.

Financial Benefit

Full breakdown of the costs and savings can be seen in the appendix but in summary:

Capital requirement	= £185,000
10% Contingency	= £18,500
Revenue Savings over 10 years	= £368,000
Cost avoidance over 10 years	= £432,000
Total benefit	= £615,000 (£596,500 if Contingency used)

Capital contribution will be broken down over 3 years and in accordance with the Strata business case as follows: (Includes 10% contingency)

		% Contribution		15/16 (£000's)	16/17 (£000's)	17/18 (£000's)	Total (£000's)
Uniform Implementation	EDDC	36.7	Capital	£34.9	£19	£19	£72.9
	ECC	35.9	Capital	£34.4	£19	£19	£72.4
	TDC	27.4	Capital	£30.2	£14	£14	£58.2
	Total	100		£99.5	£52	£52	£203.5
Data improvements	ECC	100	Capital	£100	£0	£0	£100

Costs/ Savings of the Proposal

Direct Costs/ savings of Proposal (£000s)		Year 1 ¹	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
East Devon	Capital	31.74	17.5	17.5							
	Idox Products	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
	Gazetteer software	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Exacom ²	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	ASB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Connectors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exeter	Capital	31.361	17.2	17.2		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Idox Products	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	Planning and Building Control	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Exacom	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	Land Charges	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Connectors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gazetteer software	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Environmental Health	23	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Estates	9	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing Grants	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Teignbridge	Capital	27.311	13.1	13.1		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Idox Products	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
	Exacom	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	Connectors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Estates	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Costs	310.41	222.8	194.8	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0	132.0
Yearly Costs/ Savings (-ve)	108.41	20.8	-7.2	-70	-70	-70	-70	-70	-70	-70	-70
Cumulative costs/ savings (-ve)	76.67	129.21	122.01	52.01	-17.99	-87.99	-157.99	-227.99	-297.99	-367.99	

¹ Year 1 = '15/'16

² The above costs include the purchase of Exacom which is required by all 3 sites to manage the CIL and Section 106 expenditure. This software would need to be purchased regardless of the decision to progress with the Idox proposal. The proposal however includes Exacom at a discounted rate.

Additional Value.

The Idox proposal includes items that the councils require, but would have to pay for at additional cost if we were not to proceed with the proposal. These include:

Included in Deal	Additional value over 10 years (000's)
Additional licenses	50
Use of Enterprise across all modules	50
Connectors	200
Anti Social Behaviour Module - EDDC	40
Estates Module - TDC	20
Discounted Exacom	60
Annual Maintenance reduction 3 years	12
Total	£432