

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE, COUNCILLOR ASHLEY CARTMAN



WITH ADVICE FROM:
THE HEAD OF FINANCE & PROPERTY AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

DECISION NO: CSD2019/20-004

SUBJECT: Five-year investment plan for ICT Infrastructure

KEY DECISION: No

BACKGROUND:

1. The council maintains an extensive ICT infrastructure on which it is wholly reliant to deliver its services. Partly to exploit advances in technology, and partly for commercial purposes, suppliers provide support for such equipment only over a tightly defined lifecycle. Infrastructure which is not supported by its supplier poses an IT security risk as exposed weaknesses in application code or firmware are not addressed and remedied through the release of patches.
2. Historically, the council did not procure IT infrastructure from the perspective of a whole lifecycle approach, instead considering each item in isolation as and when support from the supplier ceased.
3. In 2016 the council produced a five-year rolling roadmap which highlighted infrastructure known to be scheduled for replacement, thereby allowing appropriate identification and scheduling of both funding and project resources over a longer term. As part of the capital programme, Council approved a five-year funding programme to support the roadmap which comprised an emergency in-year allocation of £100k for 2016/17, followed by £300k in each of the subsequent four years through to 2020/21. Individual projects are still subject to normal governance and approval processes however they are funded on a call-off basis up to the £300k limit. Governance over the programme is provided by the ICT Architecture Board which reports to CMT through the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
4. In planning for the future, the Investment and Infrastructure Board has agreed in principle to continue with an annual allocation of funds through to 2023/24 but to change the funding model such that the annual sum reflects the demands likely to be incurred within a given year, taking into account known projects as shown in the following table:

Financial Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Already approved	£300,000	£300,000	£300,000	£0	£0
To be approved	£97,100	£20,000	(£65,000)	£407,000	£347,000

DECISION:

To approve that a further £806,100 be incorporated into the capital programme over the next four years to enable critical council ICT infrastructure to be replaced in line with suppliers' product lifecycles.

REASONS:

- The council has previously experienced at first hand the effects of failing to replace outdated infrastructure which results in unreliable systems, poor equipment performance, dissatisfied customers and a frustrated workforce;
- Unsupported infrastructure represents a significant cyber security risk which, if exploited, threatens the ability of the council to deliver services.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Each individual project will be assessed against the different options available, including the option of doing nothing and accepting the ensuing risks.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding is to be met from the council's capital programme over the next four years.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

Not relevant to this decision.

CONSULTATION

Relevant consultation has been undertaken within the council to the extent available within the context of the decision being taken. Individual projects funded by the programme will be subject to their own consultation requirements, including with external stakeholders when appropriate.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Each project funded by the programme will be subject to its own risk identification and management process.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment will be created for each relevant project funded by the programme as required by its project plan.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The costs are within the tolerances of the Capital Programme and budgets set/agreed by Infrastructure and Investment Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Capital Budget 2017/18 and Medium Term Capital Investment Strategy, Report to Executive, 7 February 2017 – <http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc27907.pdf>
- Investment and Infrastructure Board meetings held on 11 December and 9 October 2018
- ICT Infrastructure Refresh Programme Project Proposal, Infrastructure and Investment Board, March 2017

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: 

Councillor Ashley Cartman
Executive Member for Finance

Date: 22/7/2019

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed: 

Richard Penska
Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer

Date: 22/7/2019

