BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**Report of the Executive
Director - Communities**

Core Infrastructure (Server Estate) Replacement

1.   Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to a capital scheme to replace the council's virtual server estate.

2.   Recommendations

It is recommended that capital funding totalling £0.650M is released in order to undertake the scheme to replace the council's virtual server estate.

3.   Introduction

The current IT hardware utilised by the authority was designed, maintained and supported by TCL. Subsequent to the end of the IT outsourcing contract significant investigations into the technical health of key assets has been undertaken. This process has identified that the virtual server estate:

- Lacked investment for a number of years;
- Was operating on slow storage, restricting application performance and utilisation of high intensity systems;
- Is close to capacity preventing the delivery of large scale systems;
- Approaching end of life;
- Has restrictions on clustering which prevents large / critical systems from being able to operate over additional servers, increasing their resiliency;
- Requires domain experts in multiple fields to provision servers which increases total cost of ownership;
- Have a high running cost both in fundamental software used and the associated operational running costs; and
- Has a minor public cloud presence operating at significant cost.

If the council allows the equipment to become unsupported by the manufacturer a significant proportion (around 80%) of the applications operated by the council will no longer be PSN compliant.

4.   Proposal and justification

It is proposed to replace the virtual server infrastructure with modern, hyper-converged technology which gives the following benefits:

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- Modernised virtual server provision giving the benefit of being supported by the manufacturer for the foreseeable future;
- Replace the supervising software with the Microsoft offering which is already licensed by the council giving a cash saving of approx. £0.084M per annum
- Remove cloud provision of mobile gateway servers giving a cash saving of approx. £0.060M per annum;
- Give the council improved High Availability across the server estate resulting in improved availability of hardware and applications;
- More processing power and storage, and modular way of adding increases to capacity;
- Disaster Recovery capabilities;
- Savings in power consumption in the data centre due to the smaller physical footprint of the equipment

5. Consideration of alternative approaches

Other options considered were:

Do Nothing

This option was ruled out as none of the above benefits will be realised and the council will be in breach of its PSN obligations when the equipment becomes unsupported.

Augment and Expand Existing Infrastructure

Short term requirements could be met by further investment in the existing infrastructure. This does not, however, meet the medium / long term requirements of the council and will lead to compliance issues as equipment becomes unsupported. In addition, this will not release cashable savings from transferring the supervisor software to Microsoft.

6. Implications for local people / service users

There are no implications of the report to local people / service users.

7. Financial implications

The total cost of the capital scheme is £0.650M. This has been agreed by the Capital Oversight Board as to be funded from reserves and has been included within the Future Council Capital Programme (Cab 8.2.2017/17).

8. Employee implications

There are no employee implications arising from this report.

9. Communications implications

There are no communications implications arising from this report.

10. Consultations

Consultations have taken place with the Enterprise Architect, Corporate Procurement and appropriate technical staff within the IT Business Unit.

11. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

The scheme has been approved by the Capital Oversight board and as such monitoring information will be provided to the Board as required.

12. Glossary

Virtual server- A virtual server is a server that shares hardware and software resources with other operating systems (OS), versus dedicated servers

PSN – Public Services Network is the government's high-performance network, which helps public sector organisations work together, reduce duplication and share resources.

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Date 20 March 2017

Financial Implications /

Consultation   …………………………
(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where no financial implications)