

APPENDIX C.5

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 30 NOVEMBER 2010

Title:

DESKTOP PC REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Stephen O’Grady]
[Wards Affected: All]**

Summary and purpose:

The report proposes bringing forward the planned programme for replacing desktop PCs with Thin Client devices which will enable completion of this initiative in the current financial year. The estimated additional capital cost brought forward would be £42,000.

How this report relates to the Council’s Corporate Priorities:

This report relates to the Council’s priorities for value for money and sustainability.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no equality and diversity implications.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

The programme to replace PCs with Thin Client devices provides savings in the cost of equipment which is due for replacement over the next few years and will provide savings in equipment costs and the cost of electricity consumed. The cost of a Thin Client device is £160 as compared to the cost of a desktop PC of approximately £350 therefore the capital saving on replacement is as follows:

200 x £350	=	£70,000	cost of PC replacement
200 x £160	=	£32,000	cost of Thin Client

Net Capital saving on replacement = £38,000

The report seeks approval to bringing forward additional capital expenditure in 2010/11 of £42,000 (£32,000 for 200 Thin Client devices plus £10,000 one-off support and implementation costs). The cost of the Thin Clients purchased will be saved by reductions in the next two years capital programme provision for Desktop and Server Upgrades.

Legal Implications:

There are no specific legal implications.

Climate Change Implications:

There will be significant savings in electricity usage as a result of replacing desktop PCs with Thin Client devices. It is estimated that Thin Client devices use on average 75% less power than desktop PCs. It is estimated that the electricity saving produced would be 257kwh per device equivalent to a cost saving on each Thin Client of £20.58 over the cost of running a PC. For a rollout of 200 Thin Clients this equates to estimated electricity savings of £4,100 per annum based on Waverley's existing electricity tariff.

Background

1. Thin Client devices behave in technology terms like traditional dumb terminals in that the processing power and software systems used are delivered centrally from the IT data centre with all information being stored and managed centrally. Thin Client devices have no facility for local storage of information.
2. The Council's programme of server virtualisation programme has now been completed and progress is being made on delivering a three year programme to replace office PCs with Thin Client devices. To date approximately 100 Thin Client devices have been installed to replace desktop PCs with a further 50 Thin Client devices programmed to be rolled out before the end of the year.
3. The Executive are being asked to consider accelerating the programme for rolling out Thin Clients in the current year by approving an additional £42,000 on the IT Capital Programme for 2010/12 to enable a further 200 Thin Clients devices to be purchased and installed to complete early the PC replacement programme.
4. The principal benefits of moving to Thin Client technology are threefold:
 - I. Cost saving - a Thin Client device costs approx £160 as compared to a PC at an average cost of £350. Thin Clients have a longer life cycle than a PC as they behave like traditional dumb terminals, they need little processing power as the software systems and processes used are being delivered centrally from the Council's Data Centre.
 - II. Energy saving / cost saving – a Thin Client uses approximately 10% of the energy consumed by a desktop PC.
 - III. Management/Security - a thin client network is easier to manage and maintain thanks to its being based on centralised management and support. Replacing PCs with Thin Clients simplifies troubleshooting, network management, and monitoring. Security is provided intrinsically by the architecture of a thin client solution thus avoiding common source of viruses. In addition information cannot be held on local C drives as there are no C drives on Thin Clients, all information created by users has to be created and stored in corporate systems and directories.

Conclusion

5. It is proposed that the replacement programme for PCs with Thin Client devices be brought forward to be completed in the current financial year and that approval be sought to additional capital funding of £42,000 in 2010/11.
6. The procurement of the Thin Client devices will be made through the Surrey County Council Framework Agreement for IT equipment and the purchase will complete the rollout of Thin Clients.
7. A limited number of PCs will still need to be retained for specialist applications such as auto-CAD, ID card production and scanning. In addition there will be some laptops retained. The number of laptops in use has declined due to the success of citrix but some will still be required to achieve flexible working in some areas.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the planned programme for replacing desktop PCs with Thin Client devices be brought forward to 2010/11 at a capital cost of £42,000.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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