

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 (c)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER MEETING
FOR COUNCIL SERVICES**

27 February 2017

Report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources

Upgrade of Wireless Network Access Points

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval to add the purchase of replacement Wireless Access Points ('WAPs') to the 2016/17 Capital Programme enabling the stabilisation of the Council's wireless network solution.

2. Information and Analysis

In 2007, a corporate wireless solution was installed, which consisted of a number of WAPs at locations across the Council. The WAPs are connected to wireless controllers, which are hosted in the Data Centres at County Hall and Shand House.

The wireless provision has two aspects:

- a secure corporate function, which allows access to Corporate IT systems using council laptops; and
- a guest wireless function, which allows internet access for public use.

The management of the wireless solution and the control of the WAPs, are carried out through two resilient controllers. Recently, there have been several occasions where the controllers have shut down unexpectedly, and whilst they have always restarted immediately, this may not always be the case. Fortunately, these events have had no adverse effect on users, as they happened out of hours. There is a risk that this will happen during working hours, and that the controllers may require intervention, which will affect both Council staff and the public.

Following investigation with the vendor as to the cause, the fault was found to be due to a recognised error in the software

currently installed on the controllers. The vendor has recommended that the software operating the controllers must be upgraded, to avoid any unplanned outage in the future.

On planning this upgrade, it has become evident that the older WAPs installed across the Council are not compatible with the recommended updated version of the software. There are 150 WAPs identified as requiring replacement; all these were installed within the first two years of the initial wireless solution.

The work which has taken place to upgrade the Wide Area Network, and the future replacement Email, Internet and Related Services, which is to be considered by Cabinet on 21 February 2017, will allow a significant uplift in the bandwidth which is available to wireless. This work, together with the replacement equipment and the upgrade of the controllers, will mean the user has a much better experience when using this wireless solution.

On 9 September 2014, Cabinet approved the award of a contract for the supply of Networking Equipment, including Support and Maintenance and Associated Services to Specialist Computer Centres. They have provided a quote to replace the equipment, and have agreed a trade-in value for the old WAPs saving the Council £9,000 on the replacement price.

If the Council does not replace or remove the old WAPs and upgrade the software, it will be left with an unstable service which could affect both Council staff and the public.

3. Financial Considerations

The upgrade will be funded via an RCCO (Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay) from the 2016/17 Transformation Service budget.

The cost of replacing and installing the 150 WAPs across the Council is as follows:

Replacement of WAP's (including trade-in).	£82,000
Property costs for the installation of new brackets and WAP's.	£9,000
Contingency for any additional cabling work required.	£5,000
Total Costs	£96,000

4. Legal Considerations

Legal Services will assist the Strategic Director as required with respect to this report.

5. Social Value Considerations

The tender for the network infrastructure equipment was advertised before the publication for consultation of the Council's Draft Social Value Strategy. However, work will take place with the supplier over the life of the contract to identify any potential social value initiatives.

The wireless access solution enables public access to the internet in a number of Council establishments; such as Libraries benefiting nearly 3 million annual users of the library service.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: quality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Key Decision

No

8. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?

No

9. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member approves the addition of £96,000 to the 2016/17 Capital Programme to replace wireless access points enabling the stabilisation of the Council's wireless network solution.

**JUDITH GREENHALGH
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES**