



Report of: Digital & Information Services – Head of Strategy & Solutions

Report to: Director of Resources and Housing

Date: 4th April 2020

Subject: DIS Essential Services Programme (ESP) 2020/21

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of Main Issues

The Essential Services Programme (ESP) was established to enable Digital & Information (D&I) Services (previously IT Services) to undertake a continuous annual programme of upgrade and refresh of Leeds City Council's extensive core ICT infrastructure. As a general principle, D&I Services ensure that our ICT hardware and software are operated as long as feasibly possible before being replaced or upgraded. However, there are major elements of investment and refresh required over the coming year as outlined in this report.

In particular: continuing the build of a major new platform that will replace previous end of life server and storage infrastructure. This platform will host many of our critical applications and services and will be capable of being shared with other public service partners across the city. Significant investment will also be made in 'Cyber/IG' processes and solutions to help ensure that the ongoing threat to our information and systems is minimised. We will also replace a significant number of aging PC's and laptops. In addition, there will also be a range of medium/small size but important initiatives that are required to be undertaken in order to keep our overall infrastructure up to date, including the deployment of devices to staff and members of the public to help bridge the digital divide.

Recommendations

That the Director of Resources and Housing gives authority to incur expenditure of £5,142K on the 2020/21 ESP upgrades outlined in this report, which includes the specialist resources (internal and external) to commission and implement these services.

1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval on the funding required to conduct a range of major essential IT infrastructure investment, refresh and upgrade initiatives over the next 12 months.
- 1.2 This involves new hardware and software and the engagement of specialist internal and external resources to commission and implement this infrastructure.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 There are approximately 11,000 users across 350 Council sites (including a number of schools) and two primary data centres hosting a significant range of infrastructure; servers, storage, networks, telephony and ancillary equipment etc. These data centres host over 300 critical and important business applications. This fundamental and extensive ICT infrastructure continually requires refreshing and upgrading.
- 2.2 The approach in LCC has always been that hardware and software will only be refreshed when we have extracted all the value from it and before supportability, poor performance and the potential consequential failure of critical business services becomes an issue. The proposed programme of work outlined in this report for 2020/21 is part of an ongoing long term programme of infrastructure maintenance and refresh, prioritised to ensure that the failure of business critical services is minimised.
- 2.3 Reassuringly LCC generally spends significantly proportionally less than many of its core city counterparts refreshing this core infrastructure.
- 2.4 It is also the case that this refresh brings additional benefits because software and hardware (in particular) improves significantly over time and we therefore get a higher return on our investment in terms of functionality, performance and reliability etc.

3 Main Issues

- 3.1 From a hardware, software and external services (resources) perspective, approximately £4,010K is required to deliver a range of important initiatives as defined and agreed in the 2019/20 ESP programme. In addition, it is anticipated that £1,130K of internal D&I Services resources are required to assist with the commissioning and implementation of this hardware and software. This equates to £5,140K in total, and this has already been factored into the Council's approved Capital Programme for 2020/21.
- 3.2 A significant proportion of our extensive server and storage estate is reaching its end of life. A new scalable platform is required to replace this ageing infrastructure. This will be built using new generation technology and architectures to ensure future proofing for the next 5 – 7 years. This scalable platform will be designed in a way that will also enable public service partners across the city to share the capability in a consistent and repeatable way, so ensuring the efficient provisioning of any new partners and lower overall maintenance costs. The platform will also be replicated (mirrored) to allow hosting across dual data centres so facilitating high resilience and availability. Our commitment to the 'cloud' and our 'cloud first' strategy still applies, but is still the case that over the next 5 years many of our critical legacy applications and also the legacy applications of our partner organisations will need to operate 'on premise' because they are not architected in a way that makes them suitable to operate in the 'cloud'.
- 3.3 The risk of cyber threat is increasingly an issue across all organisations as the risk of serious damage to critical computer systems and the associated information they host continues to rise. There are frequent and high profile cases of computer systems being compromised and sensitive information being stolen on a weekly basis and the organisations that commit these crimes are becoming smarter. The Council also has significant obligations to comply with a

range of security frameworks mandated across local government e.g. PSN (networks), PCI (credit card payments) and the new DPA (Data Protection Act) etc. The criteria for compliance with these frameworks are becoming more demanding and consequently the investment required in new cyber and IG tools, protection measures and assurance is significant. This investment is related but separate to the Applications Portfolio Programme.

- 3.4 There is also a significant allocation of funding assigned to replace the significant number of old PC and laptop devices (5-7+ years) across the organisation.
- 3.5 There is also funding allocated to help bridge the digital divide within the organisation and also externally. This supports our overall inclusion strategy there will also be an allocation of devices that can be loaned to the public through our Library services.
- 3.6 There are also a number of smaller but important initiatives that will be undertaken as part of the 2020/21 ESP programme.
- 3.7 It is expected that similar levels of ESP investment will be required in foreseeable future years but each year will be considered based on prevailing risks and priorities.

4 Corporate Considerations

- 4.1 **Consultation and Engagement** - the ESP programme has been consulted on widely. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member was briefed on the proposed 2020/21 programme in March 2020 as was the Director of Resources and Housing.
- 4.2 **Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration** - New hardware and software that directly impacts on end users i.e. PC's, laptops and tablets will take into consideration the requirements of disabled staff in particular. There is also some investment allocated for staff and members of the public who do not have or have limited access to IT services.
- 4.3 **Council Policies and City Priorities** – Modern and 'fit for purpose' core ICT services and end user devices are fundamental in the business effectiveness and efficiency of the 11,000 staff in the organisation who use ICT equipment as an essential and fundamental part of their daily work.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 Full Scheme Estimate

The anticipated cost for the ESP infrastructure implementation and commissioning for 2020/21 is £5,142K.

4.4.2 Capital Funding and Cash Flow

£5142K is approved from the capital scheme (32623/000/000) for the 2020/21 work programme.

Previous total Authority to Spend on this scheme	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2019 £000's	FORECAST				
			2019/20 £000's	2020/21 £000's	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	onwards £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	0.0						
FURN & EQPT (5)	0.0						
INTERNAL RESOURCES	0.0						
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0						
TOTALS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2019 £000's	FORECAST				
			2019/20 £000's	2020/21 £000's	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	onwards £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	0.0						
FURN & EQPT (5)	4010.0		4442.0	4010.0	2950.0	2950.0	
INTERNAL RESOURCES	1130.0		1750.0	1130.0	1260.0	1260.0	
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0		0.0				
TOTALS	5140.0	0.0	6192.0	5140.0	4210.0	4210.0	0.0
Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2019 £000's	FORECAST				
			2019/20 £000's	2020/21 £000's	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	onwards £000's
Departmental USB	0.0						
Corporate USB	5140.0		6192.0	5140.0	4210.0	4210.0	
Any Other Income (Specify)	0.0						
Total Funding	5142.0	0.0	6192.0	5140.0	4210.0	4210.0	0.0
Balance / Shortfall =	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

4.4.3 Revenue

There is funding built into the Council's revenue budget to pay for the associated capital expenditure. There are some additional revenue pressures associated with the cyber/IG work stream and the new server/storage platform. In the case of the cyber/IG pressure this will be negotiated corporately. In the case of the server/storage platform pressure, it is expected that partners will contribute to the funding required however additional budget has been identified as services are moved into external Cloud subscription services.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 The hardware, software and services will be purchased through the Council's established preferred suppliers under existing contract arrangements. The technologies concerned are consistent with our agreed technical strategies.

4.5.2 This decision is eligible for 'call in' and has been posted on the List of Forthcoming Decisions.

4.6 Risk Management

The hardware and software purchased will be consistent with the current range of technologies and equipment presently being sourced by D&I Services and therefore the risk is minimal. If this work is not undertaken, there is a high risk of additional costs and business failure as we operate on old and in some cases unsupported ICT infrastructure.

5 Recommendations

5.1 That the Director of Resources and Housing gives authority to incur expenditure of £5,142K on the 2020/21 ESP upgrades outlined in this report, which includes the specialist resources (internal and external) to commission and implement these services.

6 Background documents

6.1 None.