

Report under Delegated Powers

| SUBJECT | PORTFOLIO | AUTHOR |
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| Storage Area Network Hosts replacement | Corporate Support and Assets | Mark Gilmore |

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Efficient, Effective and Exceptional Council

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 South Ribble Borough Council currently utilises a Storage Area Network (SAN) controlled by the use of HOSTS which contain over 95% of our virtual servers, and run the SRBC Virtual Server Environment
- 1.2 The current HOSTS purchased in 2013 were specified for 5 years including growth and resilience and are now becoming end of Life and nearing full utilisation.
- 1.3 There are currently 6 Hosts and 2 Backup Hosts running the entire SRBC Domain providing Data Storage, supplying applications to users and providing data security in the event of a disaster.
- 1.4 The HOSTS enable a stable and secure domain which provide for Business Continuity if one of the HOSTS develops an issue, with the Authority continuing to function by temporarily migrating the virtual servers, seamlessly allocated to that HOST to the other HOSTS until the issue is rectified then migrated back once resolved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended to replace, install and migrate the existing HOSTS, which are coming to end of life in May 2018, onto new Hardware and appoint NVIRON as Hardware Purchaser and Implementer. It is anticipated that the new contract will be effective immediately once the new Hosts are purchased in April/May 2018.
- 2.2 To waive, in accordance with paragraph 39, Contract Procedure Rules 10.1, 10.3 and 10.4 as the nature of the market for the works to be carried out or the goods or services to be provided has been investigated and is demonstrated to be such that a departure from the requirements of the Rules is justifiable, as detailed below.
- 2.3 To authorise capital expenditure of £80,892, in line with Financial Regulations.

DETAILS AND REASONING

- 3.1 The current HOSTS were installed and are supported by NVIRON Ltd and the intention is to replace with Dell hardware for the reasons outlined below.

3.2 NVIRON currently have the System Care contract to maintain and support SRBC's Domain and Firewall. A procurement through the Chest to invited suppliers for a SAN replacement kit including 5 year support was undertaken in March 2017. Dell equipment was specified for technical and compatibility reasons and 5 Dell providers were invited to quote including Dell Local Government Sales. Three bids were received from Dell, Nviron and Phonix Software. Nviron were the most competitive and as such they won the contract to upgrade the SAN's in 2017 and are well versed in the SRBC infrastructure set up. In respect of the current Hosts replacement exercise, quotes for supply and professional services were obtained from both Nviron and Phonix, with Nviron being the cheapest, as detailed below. The Council also investigated the cost of purchasing direct from Dell but this proved to be the most expensive of the three options.

3.3 The Dell EMC portfolio offers several key benefits:

- **Compatibility.**
The 14th Generation Servers from Dell are designed to work with SRBC's Dell Enterprise Storage and Dell Networking. This reduces the risk of non-compatibility in the Datacentre.
- **Unified Support.**
The Enterprise Storage and Core Network that the 'Hosts' connect to and are all Dell EMC, and as a result, single vendor support is available on 24/7 Business Critical 4 Hours response. This ensures 'end-to-end' support from the manufacturer throughout the Datacentre.
- **Skills and Training.**
The SRBC IT team has years of experience administrating Dell servers, so any additional training required would be minimal.
- **Value.**
The SRBC IT team has evaluated the market and the Dell Hosts are the best value 'Tier 1' option available.

3.4 As Dell EMC Platinum Partners, Nviron Limited can guarantee the very best pricing available from Dell EMC through preferential discount which is not available to SRBC:

| Servers (inc Professional services) Purchased By | Cost |
|---|-------------|
| NVIRON Ltd | £80,892 |
| Phonix | £82,644 |
| Directly by South Ribble Borough Council | £118,669 |

3.5 The exceptional circumstances that justify a waiver from CPRs are:

- Nviron are familiar with the SRBC network and domain as well as managing the firewall, resulting a more stable and secure environment.
- Market testing has been undertaken and Nviron have been found to be the cheapest of the three options that were tested.
- A de-support notice for the current version of Host and SAN software was received on 14th February 2018. Following receipt of this notice there is a level of urgency surrounding the procurement of the new Host to ensure future ongoing support.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Failure to replace the HOSTS would render the Council to the possibility of complete IT Network Infrastructure and application delivery failure and the ability to function in a timely and efficient manner.

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| FINANCIAL | <p>Cost of £80,892 includes professional services to acquire, install and commission the new hosts and migrate from the existing hosts which includes 5 Years maintenance and Business Critical 4 Hour response 24 Hours 365 Days (24/7).</p> <p>This amount can be met from the Information Technology capital budget for 2018-19.</p> |
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| LEGAL | <p>In accordance with the provisions of our Contract Procedure Rules a waiver may only be granted where exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated.</p> <p>In this particular instance it is considered that exceptional circumstances do indeed exist for the reasons set out in the body of the report.</p> |
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| RISK | The potential for complete IT Network Infrastructure and application delivery failure if the Hosts are not replaced |
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| THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY | There are no equality issues arising from this report. |
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| OTHER (see below) | |
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None