

**Report under Delegated Powers**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>
<b>Wifi Upgrade and extension, and upgrade to the internet bandwidth</b>	<b>Corporate Support and Assets</b>	<b>Mark Gilmore</b>

**SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

**Efficient, Effective and Exceptional Council**

**1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 South Ribble Borough Council currently has wifi at the Civic Centre, however, this suffers from connectivity issues and since it was installed the use of wifi has increased significantly. Additionally, there is no wifi provision at either the Moss Side depot or at Leyland Market. The expectation of members of the public regarding wifi usage has increased in recent years and many residents now expect to be able to access wifi in public buildings – which is difficult to do at the Civic Centre and which cannot be done at Leyland Market.
- 1.2 The Council is experiencing a growth in internet usage and it is expected that this trend will continue, particularly with the roll out of improved wifi access for both councillors, staff and members of the public. Therefore there is a requirement to increase the size of the bandwidth from the present 100Mb to 1Gb.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended to procure and install/upgrade wifi at the Civic Centre, Moss Side depot and Leyland Market and for this to be procured by a direct award from the Crown Commercial Services framework (RM1045 Lot1) with the procurement being awarded to The Networking People (TNP).
- 2.2 To amend the Council's current agreement with Vodafone to increase the size of our internet bandwidth from 100Mb to 1Gb.

**DETAILS AND REASONING**

- 3.1 The current wifi provision at the Civic Centre has been in situ for approximately 10 years and requires upgrading. This was initially designed for use in the civic suite alone and was not intended for public or staff use at that time – it was intended for use by councillors alone.

- 3.2 The wifi is now being used by staff with limited use by members of the public in the Civic Centre. By upgrading the wifi provision at the Civic Centre, the user experience will be improved and members of the public will be encouraged to use the facility. Additionally, the current wifi technology at the Civic Centre is no longer supported by the supplier.
- 3.3 There is presently no wifi provision at either Moss Side depot or at Leyland Market. The introduction of wifi at the depot will enable more efficient and effective working practices to be adopted which will contribute to the transformation agenda. The introduction of wifi at Leyland Market will be beneficial to both stall holders and shoppers alike, and matches current expectations.
- 3.4 As supplier of the services required has been identified on the Crown Commercial Service framework – RM1045, Lot1. The Networking People are the sole provider on the framework to supply the hardware and services that are required by the Council. The total cost over a three year period is £42,149.37 which includes a circuit to link between the Civic Centre and Leyland Market, supporting hardware and services for the circuit, and the installation of wifi and supplementary hardware in support of the wifi, such as wireless controllers, radio access points and switches. There will also be additional Cat5e cabling requirements at all three sites at an estimated cost of £5,000, bringing the total cost of the wifi installation over three years to £47,149.37.
- 3.5 The Council currently has a 100Mb internet bandwidth link, which is no longer sufficient to support internet and wifi traffic requirements – which will in future include Leyland Market and the depot. The Council’s 100Mb broadband is provided by Vodafone at a cost of £666.66 per month. It is proposed to increase the bandwidth tenfold to 1Gb at a total cost of £1,132.92, an increase of £466.26 per month.

**WIDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A failure to invest in wifi provision in council buildings could prevent staff and members from working in a transformative environment and does not provide the level of service that residents now expect when they visit public buildings.

<b>FINANCIAL</b>	The capital cost of the upgrade and installation can be met from the 2017/18 ICT capital budget. The additional annual cost for increasing the bandwidth (£5,600) has been included in the revised revenue budgets.
<b>LEGAL</b>	<b>The award of contracts via a Framework agreement is permitted by the Council’s Contractual Procedure Rules. Formal documentation will be drawn up in due course.</b>
<b>RISK</b>	The current wifi provision is unsupported and it may not be possible to replace or repair if issues occur in future

<b>THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY</b>	There are no equality issues arising from this report.
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<b>OTHER (see below)</b>	
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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None