



18 September 2013

Agenda Item:15

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) FOR MEMBERS – REPORT OF COSTS

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the costs of the 2013 post-election ICT provision for elected Members.

Information and Advice

Background

2. ICT provision to elected Members has previously been provided via the Council's ICT department in order to benefit from our supplier discounts and experienced IT support staff.
3. In preparation for the provision of ICT equipment and support to Members following the May 2013 County Council elections, the following was approved by the Administration Committee meeting of 16 April 2013:
 - 3.1. That the proposed revised approach to ICT provision, whereby Members receive a maximum allocation of £2000 per four year term of office to cover all costs relating to ICT equipment and services, be approved.
 - 3.2. That Members purchase their own equipment and can purchase any equipment they currently use (as provided by the Council) at market value.
4. Following the May 2013 election, and the change of political administration, whilst the underlying principles of cost effectiveness and flexibility in the above resolution were recognised, there were a number of difficulties envisaged in the practical application of this approach.
5. An updated approach to ICT provision for Members was agreed at County Council on 16 May 2013, including the return to provision of ICT devices and services by Council ICT Services.

6. It was also agreed that the costs of the post-election provision of ICT to Members would subsequently be reported to Policy Committee to ensure that the revised approach was a cost-effective solution. This report fulfils that agreement.

7. ICT Provision

The following devices were provided to Members after the May 2013 election;

- 49 iPad devices,
- 1 laptop computer,
- 20 Get Connected solutions,
- 3 smartphones,
- 11 mobile handsets,
- 2 wireless printers and 6 data sticks

A review of remote ICT access solutions used both by Members and officers is being undertaken to ensure that they remain necessary, fit for purpose and best value.

8. ICT costs

8.1. The purchase costs for the post-election provision and refresh of ICT equipment and services (including support costs) to Members was £44,559.

8.2. The support costs for the above provision for 2014-17 will be £37,886 (£12,687 p.a.).

8.3. The average 4 year cost per Member is £1231.

There is provision within Democratic Services budget for these costs.

Other Options Considered

9. None at this stage

Reason for Recommendation

10. To ensure that Policy Committee is updated about the costs of providing ICT equipment to Members.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. That the costs of post-election 2013 ICT provision to Members be noted.

Councillor David Kirkham
Chairman of Finance & Property Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 09/09/2013)

This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (SEM 09/09/13)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

- Summary IT device and service costs

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All