



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Report to Administration Committee

01 November 2011

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

APPROVAL OF A SITE VISIT TO DUBLIN TO EVALUATE A POTENTIAL SOFTWARE SOLUTION

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for two officers to travel to Dublin to undertake a field evaluation of a software solution.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council has been working with Capita IT solutions to develop software to monitor the activity of placements and movements within Care Homes. The system will also be used to make electronic payments, which will further deliver back office savings.
3. The Authority owns the intellectual property rights for the use of the software and will be selling it to other Local Authorities. The software will help to reduce the number of people who self fund and then turn to the Council for financial support. Our work in this area has received national recognition, and will lead to significant cost savings being realised. There are also further benefits of this approach for emergency planning, and income generation through advertising.

Purpose of the proposed trip

4. Capita have been using the same software platform and model with the Irish Government's equivalent of Trading Standards for performing its Weights and Measures function. Officers want to visit Ireland to view the software and evaluate its usage and concept in the Council.
5. Capita is willing to fly two officers Paul McKay, Service Director, and Mark Walker, Group Manager to Ireland in early November at its expense to view the software in operation. Capita would make all the necessary booking arrangements, including organising travel in Ireland. Officers would fly from East Midlands airport in the morning, returning the same day.
6. Both officers need to make the trip, as Mark Walker has the required detailed Trading Standards knowledge, while Paul McKay has the knowledge of the software, marketing opportunities and potential usages. Officers believe there may be the potential to deliver further efficiency savings through such an approach.

7. The visit is part of a wider fact finding exercise. The Council would need to procure a partner/software to take this forward and the visit would not compromise the Council. It would help officers in shaping the specification, and to get an idea of what is possible.

Other Options Considered

8. An internet demonstration was considered, but the Government body concerned own the intellectual property rights for the use of the software, and are unwilling to allow a demonstration over the internet.

9. The intellectual property rights also mean that the Government Body would need to give permission to Capita to sell the product to the County Council should the Authority wish to do so. A site visit would allow preliminary discussions with Capita and the body concerned. An internet demonstration is more complex to arrange, and unlikely to allow an in-depth evaluation of the system and business model.

Reason for Recommendation

10. A site visit offers the best opportunity to fully evaluate the approach as an option.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, 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.

Financial Implications

12. The cost of the flights and all other travel in Ireland will be paid for by Capita. The primary costs to the Council would be officer time.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That approval be given for the two named officers to travel to Ireland.

Name of Report Author Mark Walker

Title of Report Author Group Manager Trading Standards

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Constitutional Comments (SLB 24/10/11)

13. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of paragraph 10.3 of the Delegation to Administration Committee, approval of officer travel outside the UK

Financial Comments (MB 24/10/11)

14. The financial implications are outlined in paragraph 12.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.