

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 2 SEPTEMBER 2014

PUBLIC SERVICES NETWORK (PSN) COMPLIANCE

REPORT BY SERVICE MANAGER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ABSTRACT

This report seeks authority to reallocate funds contained within the IT repairs and renewals fund for the purpose of delivering the work packages required to retain PSN compliance.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee approves:

- (i) the reallocation of funds from within the R&R fund
- (ii) the high level workplan detailed in the report

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the Council plan by ensuring onward connection to the central government systems and data required to deliver effective and secure public services.

3. BACKGROUND

PSN is the secure information and communications technology (ICT) network over which government organisations throughout the UK safely share essential services and information. Angus Council is required to use PSN to securely conduct business and share customer data electronically with other public sector agencies (Police Scotland, health services, and central government departments for example). The council is required to meet a strict set of technical standards to protect the security of the entire network; our compliance with this code of connection is assessed by the UK government's Cabinet Office annually through the Communications-Electronics Security Group (CESG). It should be noted that connection to the PSN is key to the operation of a number of council services relating to activities including child and adult protection, registration services and revenues and benefits. In 2013 the Cabinet Office produced a roadmap for the compliance requirements for the 4 years covering 2013 to 2016.

4. CURRENT POSITION

The IT Division has been progressing with the work required to move to the revised position for 2014 compliance and doing preparatory work for 2015. There are a number of network level control measures which have been identified for a compliant submission to be made, these are being fully addressed for 2014 and in the main relate to desktop patching regimes. In order to ensure that the 2014 submission and future controls were planned as early as possible a CESG Listed Advisor Scheme expert was engaged to assist in the production of a report that benchmarked the current status of the IT infrastructure against the 2014/15 guidance. The report confirmed that there were 2 significant areas of work to be addressed, the wider knowledge of the expert from across his customer base also meant that there were a number of recommendations on how these could be addressed.

The highlighted areas were:

- Removal of redundant operating systems from the network
- Separation of the PSN network and data from the curricular and public networks.

The removal of Windows XP and older servers (Windows 2000 and Windows 2003) is linked to the various de-support announcements from Microsoft. The retirement of these products had already been identified and addressed as part of the Corporate IT Strategy in which provision was made for all corporate users to have access to a centralised desktop environment running on Citrix connected to a high volume storage array. Current plans are focused on ensuring migration onto these platforms by the end of December 2014. The costs for the work detailed above have been met through the IT Capital plan over a number of years although additional funds are required to accelerate the deployment of Citrix devices. Where individual council services have a requirement to sustain a traditional desktop or storage environment for certain applications or users, costs will require to be met from within service budgets.

The separation of the PSN, curricular and public networks is a substantial piece of work that changes the previous shared approach that delivered significant savings to the council. The changes required will add additional security without a detrimental impact on performance. This work was not included in the financial plan for 2014/15 due to the uncertainty of the Cabinet Office Guidance which had been promised for release early in 2014. They will however add a layer of complexity to both the ongoing support and the development of new council wide IT solutions.

In order to mitigate the risk of a significant financial shortfall the IT division produced an estimate of costs in January and a number of recommendations on how these could be met by realigning existing financial commitments. These were noted by the Finance Convener (as chair of the Capital Projects Monitoring Group) and Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance with an instruction to bring forward a committee report when estimates had been finalised. In addition a 100% carry forward of £200,000 from the 2013/14 revenue budget was identified by the IT Division to enable PSN works.

The work delivered to date and the robustness of the 2014 action plan submitted to the Cabinet Office has resulted in Angus Council achieving PSN compliance for 2014, continued compliance is dependent on completion of the agreed workplans.

5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed to reallocate funds within the IT capital plan and R&R fund as per the financial implications below and set the timescales for delivery of the PSN workplans to 31 December 2014.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2013/14 capital plan contained a number of projects relating to the upgrade of networks and data storage. In anticipation of the Cabinet Office guidance and potential for abortive work the remaining balances on these projects had not been spent. The costs are detailed below with the proposed funding arrangements.

| Item | Cost |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Segregation of networks and data | £483,000 |
| Removal of redundant operating systems | £366,000 |
| | £849,000 |

| Funding Source | Balance |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2012/13 VOIP | £36,000 |
| 2012/13 Consolidated Storage | £28,000 |
| 2013/14 Consolidated Storage | £76,000 |
| 2013/14 Data matching | £100,000 |
| 2013/14 Angus Net replacement | £75,000 |
| 2014/15 Corporate Infrastructure Renewal | £79,000 |
| R&R balance for Agile technology | £185,000 |
| Uncommitted balance within the R&R fund | £70,000 |
| IT Revenue 100% carry forward | £200,000 |
| | £849,000 |

In summary because of pro-active management of existing budgets and planning ahead for the potential implications of PSN it is possible to meet the significant additional costs of the further works required by reallocating existing budgets and resources.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

The workload required to achieve and maintain PSN compliance is significant and there will be a consequential impact on IT support service levels on an ongoing basis. The agreement of priorities for IT projects under the Transforming Angus programme via the Angus Digital board will ensure that available resource is focused on corporate priorities.

8. CONSULTATION (IF APPLICABLE)

The Council management team has been consulted on the contents of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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