

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	RENEWAL OF CONTRACT: MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT
Members Present:	Councillors: RJ Phillips (Leader), LO Barnett, AJM Blackshaw, H Bramer, JP French (Deputy Leader), JG Jarvis, DB Wilcox.
Date of Decision:	10 April 2008
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
<p>This is a key decision because</p> <p>It is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure above agreed budgets for the service or function (shown as a line in the budget book) to which the decision relates but allowing for virements between budget heads and savings within budget heads of up to £500,000</p>	
<p>A notice was served in accordance with section 15 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulation 2000</p>	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To agree the renewal of the current Microsoft Enterprise Agreement licence, support and maintenance contract covering all corporate (excluding schools, education and research) Microsoft computer software in use within the authority for a period of three years.
Decision:	<p>THAT</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) the funding available is noted; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) the contract is renewed in the sum of £645,000 over the three year period.</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	To ensure that all corporate Microsoft software is covered in terms of support, maintenance and licence compliance for a period of three years and to ensure that the Council continues to receive the associated forty percent discount for new Microsoft software.
Options Considered:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no realistic alternative options in terms of supplier. The majority of partners, local Councils, Central Government departments, NHS agencies and businesses use Microsoft software. 2. To switch to another supplier would be problematic at best

	<p>as the majority of business applications within the Council only work on and with Microsoft operating systems and Office software. They would, therefore, become unworkable, necessitating their replacement. In short, the Council are locked into this supplier as are all other organisations who predominantly use Microsoft software on such a scale.</p> <p>3. Microsoft software costs are seen as a “cost of doing business” by most organisations as there is no real alternative supplier that provides the same breadth of software to the same high quality and most importantly, to the same level of usability for staff and engineers.¹</p> <p>4. The authority could choose not to renew the Enterprise Agreement. However, this means the Council will lose out on the benefits of having an organisation-wide agreement and face a much larger cost when rolling out projects that require desktops or servers or when purchasing Microsoft products. When Microsoft upgrades its current line of products the Council would not be able to upgrade them and would have to buy the new version at full price. At over 2000 desktop users and over 100 servers this would be at a much higher cost (40% extra per unit of Microsoft software). Additional staff resource would be required to provide licence compliance support.</p>
Declaration of Interest:	
Date the key decision is due to take effect:	17 April 2008

<p>COUNCILLOR RJ PHILLIPS.....Date: 10 April 2008 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p>
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¹ The only alternative to Microsoft software is open source software. This is provided by many different companies. Whilst appearing to be free, the total cost of ownership is similar if not slightly higher than when using Microsoft software on such an organisation-wide scale. The majority of the business applications in use do not work on this platform so most of the other software in use across the Council would need to be replaced as well as the core desktop and server software. Full retraining of all staff and technical engineers would need to take place and further integration with the Primary Care Trust who use Microsoft software would be made more difficult and costly.

To be completed by officer:	
Date consent received from Chairman of the Strategic Monitoring Scrutiny Committee:	
Subject to Call-in:	This Decision was not called in.
Was the decision modified?	No
If yes Cabinet Member (.....) decision reference:	
If no any comment(s) to be noted	
Date original decision took effect:	