

Drawdown of funds for HARC SAN replacement project

Decision maker: Director of Resources and Assurance

Decision date: 5 July 2024

Report by: Senior Project Manager

Classification: Open

Decision type: Non-key

Wards affected: (All Wards);

Purpose

To seek agreement to draw down the £372,000 of funds identified and approved in the 2023/24 capital budget (and rolled over to the 2024/2025 budget) to replace ageing Storage Area Network (SAN) equipment at Herefordshire Archives and Record Centre (HARC) with manufacturer supported equipment where security patches will be issued in line with emerging vulnerabilities and Cyber Security threats.

Recommendation(s)

1. That:

a) Draw down of funds in the 2024/25 capital budget (£372k) to replace ageing SAN (Storage Area Network) equipment at HARC;

b) Authority be delegated to the Herefordshire Council Head of ICT and Digital to take all operational decisions to implement the above recommendation.

Alternative options

2. Not proceed with the replacement of the SAN at HARC. This option is not recommended as the risk of security and hardware failure will increase over time. Risk of security compromise will increase over time as cyber security threats and vulnerabilities for the ageing technologies emerge. Loss of data or interruption to data systems for any significant time will cause severe

disruption to services operated and delivered by the council which could cause financial and reputational damage to the organisation. For instance, the loss or ability to access systems such as Academy (Revenues & Benefits), Mosaic (Social Care) and Business World (Finance and Payroll) would have a far reaching impact.

Key considerations:

3. Herefordshire Council's Data Storage Area Network equipment is held at HARC, within a Data Centre, and was installed in 2016 as part of the reconfiguration of the Data Centre environments. The solution is coming to the end of manufacturer support in August 2024. This means that no further security patches will be developed by the manufacturer for this solution.
4. SAN is a network of storage devices (which store our data within our network) that can be accessed by multiple servers or computers, providing a shared pool of storage space.
5. Replacement SAN equipment will include the manufacturers support contract which will:
 - a) Ensure equipment is actively supported by the supplier, with particular emphasis on vulnerability patches;
 - b) Provide equipment that meets the current compatibility and support requirements for the infrastructure, including additional overhead to mitigate against data growth throughout the first five years of operation;
 - c) Provide support and maintenance contract with the manufacturer or partner;
 - d) Enable decommission and disposal of outgoing equipment in line with the council's security and environmental policies;
 - e) Reduces risk for potential loss of confidentiality, integrity and availability of council key data due to cyber-attack or catastrophic hardware failure;
 - f) Protects the council's data and service delivery obligations through fit for purpose equipment;
 - g) Provides operational efficiencies with opportunity for reduced power consumption and improved performance due to technology advancement in modern solutions.
6. Hoople Limited will be commissioned to complete the work on behalf of the council as the IT support provider to the council.
7. Award of contract and implementation for the replacement hardware and ongoing support and maintenance following a compliant procurement process. Procurement will be through an approved Local Government Procurement Framework (Crown Commercial Services or similar) to ensure that best value is demonstrated.

Community impact

8. Whilst there is no direct community impact resulting from this decision, replacing the SAN at HARC supports the council in ensuring its essential assets, including IT, are robust and suitable for the long- term to ensure cost-effective delivery of services to staff and residents.

Environmental Impact

9. The council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
10. Replacement of the SAN will enable decommission and disposal of outgoing equipment, as well as reducing power consumption, which supports the council's environmental policies.

Equality duty

11. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

12. The tender document we will be using covers off a number of different areas/Acts/insurances etc with one of the sections including Equality and Diversity. It is a 'Pass/Fail' question. If suppliers do not answer this section satisfactorily, they will fail this procurement.

Resource implications

13. The request for approval to spend the £372,000 will enable the procurement of third party services with the relevant expertise, hardware and migration.
14. The funding has already been approved and is included in the 2023/24 Capital Programme.
15. There are no implications to the revenue budget to manage this software and any ongoing costs can be managed within existing budgets.

Capital cost of project	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Future Years	Total
Replacement of SAN at HARC	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
SAN equipment	0	301	0	0	301
Implementation costs	1	40	0	0	41
Contingency	0	30	0	0	30
TOTAL	1	371	0	0	372

Funding streams (indicate whether base budget / external / grant / capital borrowing)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Future Years	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<i>Corporate Funded Borrowing capital</i>	1	371			372
TOTAL	1	371	0	0	372

16. The business case, approved in the 2023/24 capital budget: [Capital investment Programme 2023/24 Business Cases](#)

Legal implications

17. There are no specific legal issues associated with this decision.

Risk management

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Due to the lack of engineering resource the hardware and migration are not completed in a timely manner	Reprioritise this and other work to ensure work completed in necessary timescales
Costs of replacement works – any cost on reinstatement works may rise with inflation	Gain competitive quotes for work and explore the requirements needed
Not proceeding with the replacement of the SAN	The SAN replacement will modernise old hardware which does not perform at its optimum and which will shortly be out of support, resulting in the risk of security and hardware failure will increase over time
Loss of data or interruption to data systems for any significant period of time	By proceeding with the replacement and modernising our hardware, we will minimise the risk of severe disruption to services operated and delivered by the council which could cause financial and reputational damage to the organisation
Data migration	Data will continue to be stored within our network, and a robust procurement process will ensure that all cyber security requirements are met

Consultees

None

Background papers

[Capital investment Programme 2023/24 Business Cases](#)

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published

Governance	John Coleman	Date 28/06/2024
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Finance	Karen Morris	Date 28/06/2024
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Legal	Sean O'Connor	Date 19/06/2024
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Communications	Luenne Featherstone	Date 19/06/2024
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Equality Duty	Harriet Yellin	Date 21/06/2024
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Procurement	Karilyn Secker	Date 28/06/2024
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Risk	Jo Needs	Date 27/06/2024
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Approved by	Andrew Lovegrove	Date 28/06/2024
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