

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Approve the expenditure of £163,558.57 for the supply of goods and the provision of services to replace the ageing computer server equipment with manufacturer supported equipment, to allow security and operational integrity to be maintained, in line with emerging vulnerabilities and Cyber Security threats.
Date of decision:	28 th October 2024
Decision maker:	Head of ICT and Digital
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Drawdown of funds for VMWare Host Replacement project</p> <p>Decision: That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agreement to draw down the funds identified in the 2024/25 capital budget (£247,500) to replace ageing server hosting equipment. b) Authority be delegated to the Herefordshire Council Head of ICT and Digital to take all operational decisions to implement the above recommendation.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Consultations have taken place with the Cabinet member finance, corporate services and planning.
Decision made:	To award a contract via the NHS framework agreement for the supply of goods and the provision of Total Technology Solutions to Phoenix Software Limited for purchase of x13 PowerEdge R660 servers (various models) with 5 years Pro Support at a Total Cost of contract: £163,558.57 exc VAT.
Reasons for decision:	<p>To support Herefordshire Council's requirements to operate IT solutions in a secure manner protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the Council's data and service delivery. The authority is obliged to ensure that the underlying infrastructure is secure and that the systems hosting environment is maintained securely. Infrastructure must not be vulnerable to common cyber-attacks, and this should be maintained through secure configuration and software patching.</p> <p>This project is to replace ageing computer server equipment with manufacturer supported equipment, to allow security and operational integrity to be maintained, in line with emerging vulnerabilities and Cyber Security threats.</p>
Equality Considerations	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p>

	<p>a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;</p> <p>b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;</p> <p>c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</p> <p>9. 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.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The VMWare Host must be replaced to mitigate the risk of security and hardware failure, which will increase over time. Risk of security compromise will increase over time as cyber security threats and vulnerabilities for the ageing technologies emerge.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	The council could decide not to replace the VMWare. 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.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	N/A

Signed: Simon Basran
Job Title: Head of ICT and Digital

Date: 29/10/2024