

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

DECISION

meeting date: 19 SEPTEMBER 2021
title: REPLACEMENT OF IT EQUIPMENT FOR COUNCILLORS
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider options for the replacement of IT equipment provided by the Council to Councillors.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2015 a working group of members considered the issue of Council provided IT equipment for Councillors. At the time one of the main considerations were members having a secure connection to the Council's network to receive emails and other documents. This was highlighted during a Public Service Network inspection to ensure our networks could safely connect to government networks.

2.2 The working group considered the provision of iPads at the time was the most appropriate means of Councillors being able to connect to the Council's network securely.

2.3 Since that time particularly recently we have seen an increase in:

- Remote meetings
- Introduction of the ModGov committee system

2.4 Whilst committee meetings are now in person many of the briefings/working groups/ad hoc meetings are still held remotely.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The original iPads were purchased in March 2015 at a total cost of £10,000, they are now reaching the end of their working lives. In addition, updates to operating systems means these iPads will no longer have the functionality to access systems.

3.2 A survey of all Councillors has been carried out to assess the use of remote facilities and determine Councillors' preference with a choice of either a new tablet or moving to laptops as an alternative.

3.3 From an IT support perspective it is much more efficient and straight forward if all Councillors opt for the same equipment.

4 COSTS OF THE VARIOUS OPTIONS

4.1 The approximate cost of possible replacement equipment for all 40 Councillors is as follows:

Option		Each £	Total cost £
1	iPad – 32 Gb	380	15,200
2	iPad – 128 Gb	463	18,520
3	Levono ThinkBook (similar to those provided to staff)	579	23,160
4	Apple MacBook Air	926	37,040
5	Surface Pro 7	1,200	48,000
*5	Enhanced keyboards for iPad/Surface Pro (where needed)	100	4,000

4.2 There may be other accessory costs.

4.3 Options 3,4 and 5 would also require professional services for the configuration of secure VPN connectivity at a cost of approx. £3,500.

4.4 If option 4 was preferred then extra IT infrastructure would need to be implemented. Further investigations would be needed and costings sought.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

Resources - The cost of replacement IT equipment would need to be included as a capital bid in the capital programme. The cost could be met from the Council's reserves.

Technical, Environmental and Legal - To connect to the Council's secure network the existing IT equipment has reached the end of its' useful life and needs to be replaced.

Political - All 40 Councillors require new IT equipment

Reputation - Not applicable

Equality and Diversity - Not applicable

6 RECOMMENDED

6.1 The Committee determine which replacement option to select.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PF55-21/JP/AC
2 September 2021