

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources to the Business Improvement Sub Committee – 5th Oct 2010

Development Work required for Ocella System

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To appraise Members of a development need for the current Ocella system (currently maintained by Capita Symonds).
- 1.2 To seek release of funding to support this development need.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council/Committee:

- 2.1 Approve Breckland spend of £7,437.50 (50% of total – as further 50% funded by Capita Symonds) to deliver required development works needed for the Ocella system.
- 2.2

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 Ocella is a key system for Breckland Councils outsourced planning function – requiring updates periodically according to national changes of policy or legislation
- 3.1.2 Historically, the support had included a number of additional consultancy days for ad hoc maintenance with additional days purchased as and when needed for update/maintenance activities.
- 3.1.3 The current standard consultancy provision has now been used, however there is a need to undertake additional development work to ensure the Ocella system remains up to date and meets new and additional legislative obligations – particularly regarding national changes relating to Building Control fees.
- 3.1.4 It is however recognised that the proposed development works will benefit both Capita Symonds and Breckland, and Capita Symonds have already agreed to provide 50% of costs (a report confirming this was received at the Contracts monitoring Meeting on 20th September).
- 3.1.5 This paper therefore seeks to release the 50% provision from Breckland (funding source to be identified.)
- 3.1.6 Benefits include enabling more efficient working practices to be introduced. Examples speedier consultation undertaken – and thus more time for Parish/Town councils to respond and a reduced need for duplicate scanning.

4.0 Conclusion/recommendation

- 4.1 Capita Symonds are prepared to commission the above days work, however, this paper seeks confirmation that Breckland will fund a proportion of this cost as follows: 8.75 x £850 per day = £7437.50. – see 3.4.1 for further info

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 This request for funding provides a solution to rectify an immediate need, and does not consider the long term needs, or further legislative changes, therefore financial profiling of costs are awkward. There may however be value in building in additional consultancy days annually to cover growth items.

3.3 Options

- 3.3.1 Options are as follows:

- 3.3.2 Do nothing – this will not resolve the issue, and will result in increased costs (reduced ability to recover income) and possible public complaints.
- 3.3.3 Adopt proposal to fund development for this piece of work – and manage further requests on a case by case basis (Contracts Monitoring Group to BISC as and when required.)
- 3.3.4 Adopt proposal, and also build in a further 5 days per annum to cover small scale ad hoc legislative changes.

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 3.4.1 It is recommended that we adopt recommendation 3.3.3 - as this delivers the requirement, and also ensures there is central governance via Contracts Monitoring Group regarding future spend. It is however important that we (with our partners Capita Symonds) deliver an effective Planning and Building Control service, which meets legislative requirements and maximises our ability to recover any fees due.

4. **Risk and Financial Implications**

4.1 Risk

- 4.1.1 There is a risk we will not be able to recover Planning Fees costs without the Ocella enhancements.
- 4.1.2 There is also no provision within the ICT budget to cover this – therefore funding will need to be sought via a 'Blue Form'.

4.2 Financial

- 4.2.1 Proforma B to follow

5. **Legal Implications**

- 5.1 None

6. **Other Implications** None

- a) Equalities: None

- b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None
- c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None
- d) Human Resources: None
- e) Human Rights: none
- f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004]: None

7. Alignment to Council Priorities

7.1 Your Council – Your Services

8. Ward/Community Affected

8.1 [Insert name of ward(s)/parish(es) as appropriate] ALL

Background Papers

None

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

Appendices attached to this report:

[List]