

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report to the Business Improvement Sub Committee – January 2011

Virtualisation of core applications at the Breckland Council Thetford Office location

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To recommend release of funds from unapproved ICT strategy for the implementation of virtualisation solution for Breckland Council – Thetford office.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council/Committee:

- 2.1 Release £12,040.66 for the procurement of virtualisation software, backup solution software and implementation of virtualisation for storage attached network (SAN) solution for Breckland Council office – Thetford.

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 Breckland Council currently operates the Comino and Academy revenue and benefits systems from the Authorities Thetford office. These systems are operated on behalf of the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP). Initial funding of £89,000 was approved for this project at the BISC on the 5th October 2010.

3.2 Conclusion/recommendation

- 3.2.1 That Committee releases £12,040.66 for the procurement of items listed in appendix A of this document.

3.3 Issues

- 3.3.1 This request for funding provides the ability for Breckland Council to procure the required IT software and services to allow the virtualisation of the existing applications operating on SUN servers at the Thetford office location. The SUN servers are at the end of life as the server technology is old and no longer fit for purpose together with increasing annual maintenance costs for this hardware.
- 3.3.2 The existing SUN servers are not able to accommodate the upgrade to the Academy and Comino software applications or allow virtualisation to take place.
- 3.3.3 Comino and Academy must be upgraded to ensure compliance with existing software support conditions and provide increased functionality.
- 3.3.4 The existing environment is experiencing issues relating to disk space and performance.

3.4 Options

3.4.1 Options are as follows:

3.4.2 Option 1

Do nothing – this will not resolve any of the issues. The procurement of the IT equipment and services will not be made and continuance of the Comino and Acadamy systems will cease.

3.4.3 Option 2

Release capital to procure necessary IT software and services to allow the virtualisation to take place on to the SAN hardware environment.

3.5 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.5.1 Option 2 is the only course of action available to Breckland Council in working towards allowing the Acadamy and Comino software applications to be upgraded and virtualised.

4. Risk and Financial Implications

4.1 Risk

4.1.1 Failure of Breckland Council to invest in the virtualisation software would increase the risk of core revenue and benefits systems failing due to the limitations of the current environment.

4.1.2 The upgrades to Acadamy and Comino would not be possible without the new hardware platform, backup solution and virtualisation software.

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 Financially Breckland Council needs to invest in information technology to ensure systems are fit for purpose to meet the needs of the Local Authority to safeguard operational systems.

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 ALL

Background Papers

None

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A – IT equipment and Services to procure

Appendix A

1 x ARCserve r15 Essentials File Server Solutions
2 x ARCserve Backup for VM Agent Host License
4 x VMware vsphere 4 Enterprise for 1 processor (Max 6 cores per processor)
4 x Basic support for vmware vsphere enterprise for 1 processor
1 x VMware vCenter server 4 Standard for vSphere
1 x Gold support for vCenter server 4
25 x LTO4 media
5 x Installation days for VSphere4 & Arcserve