

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Eric Hotson, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services

DECISION NO:

18/00049

For publication**Subject: Data Centre Contract Implementation****Decision:**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate & Democratic Services authorises the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services to award the contract(s) for the provision of a Data Centre solution including the necessary contractual negotiations and enter into any subsequent necessary legal agreements.

Reason(s) for decision:

A key decision is required owing to the contract levels exceeding the financial criteria for Key Decisions as set out in the Council's constitution. This decision will result into a contract with a data centre supplier to house the remaining IT Infrastructure which cannot be migrated to the Cloud.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

1. Mr Hotson (Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services) and Mr Lloyd introduced the report which outlined the requirement to deliver a new data centre solution which would allow Kent County Council to exit from its existing primary data centre in Sessions House and backup data centre in Medway.
 - a) In response to a question, Mr Lloyd said that by delivering the new data centre solution, Kent County Council's projected costs and saving targets within the Medium-Term Financial Plan would be met. Resilience would be removed from County Hall and power outages would be avoided.
 - b) In response to a question, Mr Lloyd discussed the data centre's current arrangements and said that the new data centres would be set up in a commercial space in two geographic locations. If a system were to fail, data would immediately be transferred to the back-up location to prevent disruption.
 - c) In response to a question, Mr Lloyd said that Kent County Council would buy data centre space from companies that supplied data centre services. He reassured Members of the Committee that external users would not be able to access Kent County Council's equipment or data as it remained a closed network environment.
 - d) In response to a question, Mr Lloyd explained the need for the new data centre solution and said that Medway had sought to withdraw from data centre services. He said that if there was no back-up data centre, the risk of losing data and experiencing outages would increase.
 - e) In response to a question, Mr Hotson said that although there was a sufficient amount of space in County Hall, running costs were high. He said that a report would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the utilisation of Sessions House.
 - f) In response to a question, Mr Lloyd said that through cloud computing, the majority of Kent County Council's services were hosted in Microsoft data centres in the United Kingdom and

Ireland. He said that there were legacy applications within Kent County Council which could not be put into the cloud. Mr Lloyd said that the main saving would be through the decreasing amount of space required within the two separate locations.

g) In response to a question, Mr Lloyd confirmed that the decision to exit the current Data Centre estate would cost £1million which would be spent over the duration of the contract, this cost was instead of what was currently being spent. Mr Lloyd said that he would provide a cost illustration to Members of the Committee outside of the meeting.

h) In response to a question, Ms Spore and Mr Godfrey explained the savings that would be made, and the current utility costs incurred within county hall.

2. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services to authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services to award the contract(s) for the provision of a Data Centre solution, including the necessary contractual negotiations and enter into any subsequent necessary legal agreements, be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered:

None

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



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Signed

12th November 2018

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Date