

From: **David Cockburn, Corporate Director, Strategic & Corporate Services and Head of Paid Services**

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To: **Eric Hotson, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services**

Subject: **Data Centre Exit Strategy**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Decision No: 18/00049

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** This paper outlines the requirement to deliver a new data centre solution which will allow the Council to exit from its existing primary data centre in Sessions House and backup data centre in Medway Council's data centre.

**Recommendation:**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services is asked to delegate to the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, the award of contracts with a Data Centre Vendor. The vendor will provide a new primary and secondary data centre environment to host the Council's residual hardware. The delegation will enable the necessary contractual negotiations to take place and the entering into any subsequent necessary legal agreements.

**1. Introduction**

This report outlines the context of the Data Centre Exit Strategy.

**2. Financial Implications**

The decision to exit the current Data Centre estate commits the Council to spend in excess of over £1 million for the duration of the contract(s).

Due to the councils implementation of the ICT Strategy, namely the transition to Cloud, the need for physical on site data centre provision is greatly reduced.

**3. Policy Framework**

The Council's ICT Strategy 2016 – 2020 sets out the future of technology over the next four years. The strategy identifies the significant investment

already made in Microsoft products and technology, and determines, that in order to maximise this investment, Microsoft will be considered first for technology requirements. The strategy was presented to this committee in May 2016 for consideration and was then subsequently endorsed.

ICT on behalf of the Council have commissioned Microsoft to support the execution of the ICT strategy in the modernisation and transition to cloud services. This approach was brought forward to this committee in March 2017 and endorsed.

By utilising the efficiencies of Microsoft Azure Cloud there is a significant net reduction of cabinets, racks and servers required in the data centres. As a result of this a more efficient, resilient and cost effective solution can be achieved by using an external data centre provider.

#### **4. The Report**

The Council uses a considerable amount of Data Centre hardware and supporting infrastructure to provide the ICT infrastructure which is used in all interactions with ICT. This technology is used by all staff and Members to function efficiently to deliver services to the Citizens of Kent. The Council owns the hardware and pays annual support and license fees.

The Council has one agreement which cover the use of the data centre within Medway Council. This is:

- Medway Data Centre Hosting Agreement – expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

A new agreement needs to be entered into to provide a data centre hosting site to continue to provide services currently in use.

The new agreement will need to provide a two-site solution, one primary and one back up. These sites must have capacity to accommodate eleven full racks at each site, with fully diverse (2N) power infrastructure and two 10Gbps diverse interconnects between sites. Any provider must be able to provide a remote 'hands-on' managed service within a fully secure environment.

The Council, by utilising the efficiencies of Microsoft Azure Cloud, has greatly reduced the amount of physical on-premise hardware that it requires in the data centres to deliver services. The current infrastructure and financial expenditure within Sessions House and provisioned at Medway Council includes:

- Significant amount of floor space
- Above average electrical power consumption
- Air conditioning/cooling
- Halon gas fire suppression system
- Diesel powered backup generators,
- Security & fire monitoring systems.

This infrastructure to support the hardware, is very costly to run and maintain on an annual basis. This can be significantly reduced if we move to a new data centre provider, where we are consuming this as a service.

The ICT commissioning team have conducted market engagement to identify some suitable providers to meet the Council's requirements whilst also supporting Kent businesses and meeting the green agenda.

Options available:

1. Do nothing – Remain within Sessions House & Medway data centres

This option would not realise significant financial savings available, would not free up floor space for conversion and contradict the endorsed ICT Strategy 2016 – 2020.

2. Secondary Data Centre – Retain Sessions House and go to the market for new secondary data centre

This option would not realise significant financial savings available, would not free up floor space for conversion and contradict the endorsed ICT Strategy 2016 – 2020.

3. Primary & Secondary Data Centre – go to the market for a new primary and secondary data centre.

This option allows the Council to:

- Release significant amount of floor space for conversion
- Reduce electrical power consumption
- Remove Air conditioning/cooling infrastructure, Halon gas fire suppression system, diesel powered backup generators; thereby making a considerable positive impact on the Green Agenda
- Alignment to Government Digital Service “digital declaration”
- Meets the principles set out in the endorsed ICT Strategy 2016-2020

There are no legal or equalities implications.

## 5. Conclusion

For the Council to realise the benefits laid out in the ICT Strategy 2016-2020 our residual data centre infrastructure must be moved to a new primary and secondary location. This will not only deliver financial savings but will free up vital physical space within Sessions House, make a positive contribution to the Green Agenda, and further illustrate the Councils commitment to the national digital agenda.

## 6. Recommendation(s)

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The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services is asked to delegate to the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, the award of contracts with a Data Centre Vendor. The vendor will provide a new primary and secondary data centre environment to host the Council's residual hardware. The delegation will enable the necessary contractual negotiations to take place and the entering into any subsequent necessary legal agreements.

## **7. Background Documents**

ICT Strategy 2016 - 2020

## **8. Contact details**

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