MEETING
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE AND TIME
THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY, 2017
AT 7.00 PM
VENUE
HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS	3 - 8

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Question Number	Agenda Item Number	Raised By	Question	Answer
1.	**Item 9 –** Implementation of IT Strategy	John Dix	Why was open source software not considered as an option given that it is both Government policy and there are some good examples of local authorities, public and private sector organisations who have moved to open source software?	The term "open source" refers to something people can modify and share because its design is publicly accessible. It is worth noting that Open-Source software packages are not always necessarily 'free' to implement and still requires on-going technical support arrangements to be in place. If open-source was chosen, it would mean implementing a variety of open-source products versus a single solution platform like Office 365. This would be a lengthy and resource intensive process. Once implemented, it would also require dedicated resources skilled in open-source products to be employed. The total cost of ownership around open source solutions often outweighs the initial savings around the licencing costs. The resourcing and skills required to implement, maintain and support open source software on the scale required for the council would be difficult to achieve without considerable investment in specialist staff and training and would also be at odds with Barnet's existing infrastructure and support arrangements. Central Government policy on open-source is that open-source solutions should be given due consideration as part of any procurement process. We considered open-source solutions but it was assessed that the Microsoft solution offered the most cost effective, secure, reliable and seamless transition from the existing platform. The licensing model for Office 365 is on an annual basis, this allows the Council the opportunity to consider changing solutions at a later date should more cost effective, secure and reliable solutions

AGENDA ITEM 5

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				become available.

Most recent Government policy focusses on Open *Standards*, ensuring that organisations with different software solutions can share files without being restricted to a specific software supplier. The Microsoft solution proposed meets these open standard requirements. |
| 2. | **Item 9 –** Implementation of IT Strategy | John Dix | The report states that there will be 2,000 council employees will benefit from this new system. Can you clarify the breakdown of those 2,000 employees; how many are LBB employees as opposed to Capita/Re/Cambridge Education or other contracted employees? | The 2,000 figure covers LBB and Barnet Group staff:

LBB Employees: 1706
The Barnet Group: 375 |
| 3. | **Item 9 –** Implementation of IT Strategy | John Dix | If contracted employees benefit, then why aren't the contractors funding some of this upgrade work? | Discussions are being held with partners about contributing to the costs of these tools. |
| 4. | **Item 9 –** Implementation of IT Strategy | John Dix | With an annual licence cost of £423,282 and the risk that Microsoft will increase licence costs in the future, what is the cost of ignoring an open software solution in both the short term and long term? | The council, like a large number of both public and private organisations, already relies on Microsoft products and licencing and considers the risks around future price changes acceptable. As a public body, the council enjoys the best possible prices from Microsoft and does not foresee Microsoft moving away from offering public bodies preferential pricing. The type of licencing that it is proposed the council moves to also means that it will receive upgrades to all future versions of the Microsoft productivity and |

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				collaboration software as part of the same annual cost. This will ensure that the most up-to-date software versions are available to the council without having to purchase a different licence in the future. In both, the short and long term, the resourcing and skills required to maintain and support open source software that meets the requirements of Barnet would need to be balanced against on-going and potential increases in licence costs. Owing to the lack of formal, contractual arrangements with Open Source software, there is also a risk that open source software stops being supported by individuals and organisations.
5.	**Item 9 –** Implementation of IT Strategy	John Dix	The user licence fee calculation suggests there will be 2,748 IT users – what is that figure based on?	This figure is based on staffing numbers for Barnet employees and partner organisations (CSG - 227, Re - 280, Cambridge Education - 160, The Barnet Group - 375).
6.	**Item 10 –** Business Planning 2017 - 20	John Dix	What is the cumulative amount of revenue over the next 10 years that will be lost by freezing council tax yet again this year?	1.99% increase in general council tax would raise income of £3.1m and therefore, not factoring changes to the council tax base, the 10 year impact would be in the region of £31m.
7.	**Item 10 –** Business Planning 2017 - 20	John Dix	Given that you have already identified a funding gap of £19.825m in the MTFS do you believe that you are acting responsibly by freezing council tax yet again or are you simply piling up problems for the future?	All financial pressures have been taken into consideration. We are delivering a balanced budget based on savings, reserves, and a three per cent Adult Social Care Precept. We are an efficient council and do not need to raise Council Tax at this time.

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8.	**Item 10 –** Business Planning 2017 - 20	John Dix	Given that inflation alone will require a 2% rise in council tax, do you think it is sustainable to keep freezing council tax?	The current MTFS factors a 2% inflationary increase on contracted spend.
9.	**Item 11 –** Decision Taken Under Delegated Powers - Integrated Community Equipment Service	John Dix	What were the unforeseen delays that caused the delay with this contract?	The unforeseen delays were caused by ongoing requests by one of the unsuccessful bidders for further information, feedback and justification of the award decision. This prevented the authority from concluding the procurement and awarding the contract.
10.	**Item 11 –** Decision Taken Under Delegated Powers - Integrated Community Equipment Service	John Dix	Was the ability to start up the contract considered as part of the evaluation to appoint the ICES provider and if not why not?	Yes. The capability and experience of suppliers to mobilise and transition was covered in the evaluation of the bidders. All bidders for the contract were experienced providers of community equipment services.
11.	**Item 11 –** Decision Taken Under Delegated Powers - Integrated Community Equipment Service	John Dix	Given that the chosen provider was the most expensive of all three bidders and that they won because quality score was given a higher weighting than cost, was consideration given as to whether one of the unsuccessful but cheaper bidders could have ensured the contract started on time?	Contracts are awarded on the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) principle which is a combination of price and quality as prescribed in the Procurement Contract Regulations (PCRs) 2015. To award the contract on any other basis would be non-compliant with the PCRs 2015 and would expose the council to litigation risks.

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				The ability of all bidders to mobilise the new service was considered as part of the evaluation, as noted in the response to Q10. The delay in mobilising the new service has not been caused by the new supplier but by the issues outlined in the response to Q.9.

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