

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	9.
Date:	7 th September 2009	Status	Open
Category	Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Changes to the Idox Uniform system		
Report by:	Director of Resources		
Other Officers Involved	Senior IT Projects Officer		
Director	Director of Resources		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Portfolio holder for Efficiency		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation. Ensuring that all IT support and maintenance contracts deliver value for money and that any risk is minimised.

TARGETS

This does not contribute to any targets specified in any approved plans.

VALUE FOR MONEY

By ensuring that the most cost effective contracts are in place.

THE REPORT

Payment of Idox Support and Maintenance

In 1996 the Council signed an Orbit framework agreement with Norsk Data, the provider of our Uniform solution. Rather than purchase the software, the Council entered into a leasing arrangement and this has continued until now. Norsk Data was taken over by CAPS and CAPS has subsequently been taken over by Idox. The Uniform solution is used by Planning, Environmental Health, IT, Land Charges and Building Control. The current annual payment for 2009/10 will be £33,425.

Normally the Council purchases software and then pays an annual maintenance charge for ongoing support.

Idox have proposed that we pay a one off cost to purchase the software and then pay annual maintenance, this will eventually reduce the annual payments. Their proposal is that the Council pays a one off cost to purchase the software of £39,000. The annual licensing will then be £11,773 a year less than the current annual payment, resulting in a payback in just over three years. It is proposed to fund this from the ICT and Office Equipment reserve. The annual saving on support and maintenance of £11,773 will be returned annually to the reserve.

The Land Charges system

The current version of Land Charges software will not be supported after the end of September 2009. Idox have had their latest version, TLC, on the market for some time and approximately 150 of their clients have either implemented or are in the process of implementing the upgrade. We are one of only two Councils who have not committed to the upgrade.

As stated before the Uniform system from Idox is also used by Planning, Environmental Health and Building Control. Upgrades to the system are tested against all the different modules to ensure that an upgrade, for example, for Planning does not create problems for Environmental Health. Idox have told us that from September these upgrades will not be tested against the version of Land Charges we have.

There will be implications for the staffing resource in both Land Charges and IT due to the large amount of work that will be needed during the change over and the timing of the implementation will have to be carefully managed.

There had been a temporary two year post to assist with the development of the Idox system which was funded from the CPA development fund, the holder of this post left in April, six months early, there is subsequently a saving of £12,110.

The cost of the upgrade is £16,650 and it is proposed to fund this partially from the ICT and Office Equipment reserve and partially from the saving for the Idox post.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The purchase of the idox software as proposed in the report and the purchase of the Uniform upgrade for Land Charges and the IT and Land Charges resources needed to implement.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial:	£43,540 from the reserve with £11,773 being returned annually £12,110 from the CPA Development fund allocated to Idox development
Legal:	None

Human Resources: Resources are required in IT and Land Charges to implement the Land Charges upgrade. There is no free resource in either section at present and so this needs resolving if members approve the purchase of TLC.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the purchases be approved subject to resolving the resourcing issues.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

In order to allocate funds from the ICT reserve to secure a long term saving and to secure a supported Land Charges system.

ATTACHMENTS: No
FILE REFERENCE: None
SOURCE DOCUMENT: Held in ICT