RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 11

meeting date: 7 NOVEMBER 2017
title: ICT LICENCES AND SOFTWARE
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: LAWSON ODDIE

1   PURPOSE

1.1   To inform members of two areas of additional revenue expenditure with regard to licences following the recent ICT infrastructure installation and also software with migration, and to seek member approval for the proposed funding of the same.

2   BACKGROUND

2.1   The capital scheme for the ICT infrastructure refresh was completed at the end of the 2016/17 financial year and various systems have gradually been migrated over to the new infrastructure since.

2.2   However, we are now at a position where we have a number of licences that are required to complete the transition. These relate to SQL Server licences with software assurance.

2.3   Separately, we require some migration work to new Blackberry Unified Enterprise Management software, which relates to the mail server that supports our Good Technology users.

3   NEW REQUIREMENTS

3.1   With regard to the SQL Server licencing, there is currently a capital programme scheme in the 2018/19 financial year which was included a number of years ago, based on the infrastructure that we had in place at that time.

3.2   With the old infrastructure we were able to purchase such licences outright, however due to the virtual nature of the environment since installation of the new infrastructure, we are required to take up an annual subscription to licences that carry software assurance (not available to purchase out right).

3.3   As a partial result of this, we no longer require the capital scheme in 2018/19 titled 'Windows Server Upgrade' for £23,500. This was to be financed from the ICT Repairs and Renewals Earmarked Reserve. However, the annual subscription for SQL Server licences with software assurance (based on the number required) would create a new revenue liability of £3,970 per annum.

3.4   Good for Enterprise is our current mobile email solution. Approximately 18 months ago Good was purchased by Blackberry. Blackberry/Good have now integrated both product sets into one named Blackberry Unified Enterprise Management, ceased developing Good for Enterprise and shortly will not be providing support for Good for Enterprise.

3.5   In order to integrate with the supported versions of our email platform (Microsoft Exchange) and remain supported by Good/Blackberry we need to migrate from Good for Enterprise to Blackberry Unified Enterprise Management.

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3.6   The cost of this work will be £2,550 and would be a one-off cost to the council. Unfortunately, due to other commitments within the current year's revenue budget we are not able to meet this additional one-off cost from existing budgets.

3   PROPOSED FINANCING

3.1   With regard to the SQL server licences it is requested that a supplementary estimate be approved to the revenue budget of £3,970 per annum.

3.2   As there is some correlation between the removal of the capital scheme for Windows Server Upgrade and the new SQL Server licences with software assurance, it is proposed to finance this new annual revenue cost with a matching annual release of resources from the ICT Repairs and Renewals Earmarked Reserve.

3.2   For the Blackberry Unified Enterprise Management software and migration it is also proposed that this one-off cost is also fully funded by a transfer from the ICT Repairs and Renewals Earmarked Reserve

3.3   At the 31 March 2017 the ICT Repairs and Renewals Earmarked Reserve stood at £171,399 and so there are adequate resources available to fund these items.

5   RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1   The approval of this report may have the following implications

        ➢ Resources – the only net additional resources would be for the £2,550 in respect of the Blackberry Unified Enterprise Management software and migration, which is recommended to be funded from the ICT Repairs and Renewals Earmarked Reserve. The other £23,500 was already set to be used to finance the now deleted capital scheme in 2018/19.
        ➢ Technical, environmental and legal – no implications identified
        ➢ Political – no implications identified
        ➢ Reputation – no implications identified
        ➢ Equality and Diversity – no implications identified

6   RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

6.1   Approve a supplementary estimate of £3,970 per annum in respect of the SQL server licences and a one-off supplementary estimate of £2,550 in respect of the Blackberry Unified Enterprise Management software and migration.

6.2   Approve the use of the ICT Repairs and Renewals Earmarked Reserve to support in the introduction of the supplementary estimate in full.

HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES   DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES