



AGENDA ITEM 5

VALUATION JOINT BOARD FOR CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Subject: Assessor's IT Hardware Renewal
Meeting: Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board
Date: 19th February, 2010
Author: B Byrne, Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Valuation Joint Board's current IT strategy (approved 21st September, 2005) indicates that PCs should be considered for replacement after four years.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Most of the PCs currently in use by Assessor's staff will be over four years old by the end of this financial year and will no longer be supported by warranty after March 2010. The IT manager has been unable to obtain a quote from any reliable provider for renewal of warranty on these machines. This leaves the options of either piecemeal replacement as computers fail or alternatively renewal of PCs.

The preferred option is for general replacement over a short timescale of two months. The piecemeal change option would cause additional effort by IT staff in sourcing different hardware drivers for a range of machines bought at different times using different operating systems and with different system architecture. It would require IT staff to work with multiple suppliers when dealing with warranty issues. This option therefore does not make efficient use of the resources of the IT team as investigation of any machine or a system failure could involve many additional factors. Piecemeal change is obviously not controllable as I cannot predict how many machines would fail in any one year.

3.0 RESERVES

Financial projection shows an expected underspend of over £16,000 for the current financial year. The Valuation Joint board has reserves of £167,000 (including the 2008/09 underspend of £9,000) to which this year's underspend would be added. The current joint framework agreement on IT purchasing indicates recent costs of around £450 per machine. I would now ask the Board to approve in principle spending approximately £25,000 of these reserves on hardware (including operating system and warranty) to replace up to fifty six PCs.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

I would ask the Board to authorise, in principle, use of part of the accumulated reserves for the purchase of PCs to replace older machines, subject to use of the joint framework for IT hardware purchases.

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Author: B Byrne
Date: 11th February, 2010