Briefing Paper

Project Details   **APPENDIX 1**

Project Name	CSVJB Location Centre Migration
Options Review	Joint Board Briefing Paper
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Background

The CSVJB intranet GIS application has been developed over a number of years to provide staff with the ability to view, analyse, query and report on geo-referenced business data using a bespoke map-based interface. The system allows business data to be set in context against a variety of relevant third party and background mapping datasets for the Forth Valley area, and supports operational decision-making, aids staff in locating and analysing property information, and facilitates the generation of bespoke map-based productions.

The existing CSVJB Intranet GIS system is built upon a shared GIS infrastructure designed and developed for the three Forth Valley Local Authorities and their partners by Forth Valley GIS and hosted by Stirling Council IT Services. In June 2010, the three Local Authorities put their GIS service provision out to tender, and as part of the tendering process, stipulated their intention to move onto a cloud-based GIS infrastructure. After a lengthy procurement process, Forth Valley GIS have been awarded the contracts, the fine detail of which are currently being finalised but which are set to run over a 5 year term. Forth Valley GIS have been set an ambitious target for the migration of all GIS services onto Forth Valley GIS's cloud-based Location Centre infrastructure by March 2013 as it is Stirling Council's intention that the existing Forth Valley GIS infrastructure, and with it the CSVJB Intranet application, will be decommissioned by the end of this financial year. Stirling Council have guaranteed availability of the current infrastructure until October 2012 only.

In light of the above, the CSVJB have three options which are detailed and evaluated for your review and consideration:

Option 1 – Do Nothing

With the decommissioning of the infrastructure upon which the existing Intranet GIS system is based, the application would cease to be available. Decommissioning may occur as early as October this year but will certainly be completed prior to 31st March 2013 and most likely by December 2012. This option incurs no direct cost but would leave the organisation without a GIS capability to support its

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business processes.

Option 2 – Migrate to Location Centre

Under this option, CSVJB would migrate to Forth Valley GIS' Location Centre platform alongside the three Forth Valley Local Authorities. Location Centre would then provide a fully managed regional spatial data infrastructure capable of facilitating on-going sharing of data and GIS tools across and between these (and potentially other) organisations. There are costs to the migration for each organisation and those applicable to CSVJB are detailed in the accompanying Project Proposal. The key benefits of the migration are:

- Location Centre is a fully managed, hosted solution that dramatically reduces the requirement and overheads associated with developing and maintaining your own GIS infrastructure and associated data management;

- CSVJB will continue to benefit from a "shared services" model with the three Local Authorities;

- Under this shared service model, capital costs are minimised as the implementation will effectively "piggy-back" on that of the three Forth Valley Local Authorities, providing a fully-populated and managed regional data infrastructure;

- On-going costs are also minimised as data management overheads to maintain the regional data store are shared across the partners and included as part of the annual subscription costs;

- Location Centre provides options for the bespoke development of custom tools and applications to directly support CSVJB's business processes without the need to build a bespoke system from scratch;

- In addition to bespoke tools, on-going development of the Location Centre product offers CSVJB the opportunity to access new facilities and features as part of the agreed annual subscription cost;

- In addition to maintaining access to all key Local Authority and Third Party datasets, Location Centre offers the potential to share data with other existing and future Location Centre customers;

- The fully managed central data store at the heart of Location Centre will ensure that up-to-date data is available to support CSVJB's business processes;

- Location Centre is a web-based solution which facilitates flexible, straight-forward access via a

standard web browser, opening up options for home and mobile working;

- Location Centre is scalable and flexible, allowing for numbers of users to be increased and decreased without the need to purchase IT hardware or software licenses you may not need.

Option 3 – Develop an In-House GIS Solution

The option exists for CSVJB to develop their own GIS infrastructure and tools. This option provides a high degree of flexibility in terms of developing a solution which precisely meets the needs of the organisation, however it is likely to be high risk and potentially high cost for the following reasons:

- The timescales available for the specification, design, development and implementation of a new, bespoke solution are extremely short (October 2012 as a worst case scenario);

- In-house resource capacity and expertise is not available to support the implementation and on-going system maintenance and data management required;

- The risks associated with IT configuration management, system availability and support would sit with CSVJB;

- Costs of development, hardware, software licensing and on-going management and maintenance are likely to be significantly higher.