

Democratic Services Committee

March 14th 2017

MEMBERS ICT PROVISION

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve the recommendations made.

Reasons: To provide an improved, more cost effective, sustainable and efficient ICT service to Members following the Local Government elections on May 5th 2017.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee to be consulted : N/A

Exec Board Decision Required No

Council Decision Required No

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr David Jenkins

Directorate: Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service:

Noelwyn Daniel

Designations: Head of ICT

Tel Nos.

01267 246270

Email Address:

NDaniel@sirgar.gov.uk

Report Author:

Gareth Jones

ICT Digital Business
Transformation Manager

01267 246311

E Mail Addresses:

garethjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
hire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Democratic Services Committee March 14th 2017

MEMBERS ICT PROVISION

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

1. Background.

1.1 The provision of Member ICT facilities is fundamental to the effective working of the Council and allows Members to provide an effective service to the public. For a number of years Elected Members have been provided with laptops or PCs and printers together with the installation of a separate telephone land line with the provision of broadband. In 2014 all Members were also provided with i-pads.

1.2 The use of these technologies has brought a number of advantages including improved communication with local residents and the Council, and the ability to access and process information that is necessary for Members to effectively undertake their role as democratically elected representatives.

1.3 While the current technologies have achieved significant benefits they also have some major disadvantages which have become increasingly noticeable over recent years. A number of Members have found that the use of ICT in its current form is increasingly complex and counterintuitive.

2. Recommendations

- New elected Members source and utilise their own broadband, we believe that broadband should now be considered a utility, rather than a luxury. Members would be given a Communication allowance of £20 per month.
- No new printers will be provided – Members can utilise printing at Council offices.
- Current Members re-elected can continue with current standard broadband provision or choose to source their own possible superfast broadband and receive the £20 communication allowance.
- We want Members to have the right device to suit the way they prefer to work. ICT will engage with Members to establish their needs and preference on which device they require. Options will include Lenovo Mix Tablet, Lenovo Laptop, i-pad (no new i-pads will be purchased as current Member i-pads have 3 years remaining.) Priority for new devices will be given to newly elected Members.
- The single device would have a Data Sim card.
- Executive Board Members will move to one device and the provision of a i-phone.

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED ?**

No

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Noelwyn Daniel**

Head of ICT

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Legal

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has determined that each authority, through its Democratic Services Committee, must ensure that all its members are given as much support as is necessary to enable them to fulfil their duties effectively. All elected members should be provided with adequate telephone and email facilities and electronic access to appropriate information.

2. Finance

There are financial implications and potential savings with the recommendations being put forward. The £20 monthly allowance for the provision of broadband would yield a saving of £12560 over the 5 year term of the next Council. The provision of a Lenovo Mix at current market cost would be £719 and the Lenovo Laptop at £519 – moving to one device for Members would avoid future hardware costs of multiple devices. The single device provided would also have a data sim with a monthly costs of £9.50 per month. Executive Board Members would receive an i-phone6 at a cost of £410.00 each.

4. ICT

With Members sourcing their own broadband, ICT members of staff would no longer visit the homes of Councillors. All ICT support would be provided to Members at Council offices. ICT would offer support and advice to Members on sourcing their own broadband.

Members will receive a one to one session with ICT staff on how to make the best use of technology and the device they have chosen to use to carry out their duties.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel

Head of ICT

- A cross party group of elected members met with ICT staff on January 20th. Various ICT devices were demonstrated and discussion took place on the provision of home broadband, the use of printers and the approach to be adopted post election in May 2017.
- Consulted with other Welsh Authorities to establish the ICT provision they provide elected Members.

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' AND CO- OPTED MEMBERS' SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2016/17		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1746052/part-61.pdf

