MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016


Officers present: Mr J T Campbell, Chief Executive, Miss L Elliott, Head of Finance, Miss S Lyons, Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, District Law, Mr G Betts, Mayor’s Sergeant and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abram, Allebone, Anslow, Bell, Carr, Francis, Henley, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Simmons, M Waters, V Waters, Walia and York.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council’s code of conduct and the council’s constitution, no declarations were made.

3. REPORT ON THE ICT STRATEGY

The annexed circulated exempt report of the Head of Finance was received on the ICT strategy which was appended to the report.

The report detailed the current arrangements that had been in place for a number of years and listed the strengths and weakness in such existing arrangements.

Of particular concern was the following:

- PSN compliance and IT security requirements;
- Poor disaster recovery and business continuity arrangements;
- The time spent on housekeeping and troubleshooting;
- The duplication of work and inconsistency across the two sites;
- Lack of development of the service to move forward with technology opportunities.

The key aims of the strategy were as follows:

- To make the ICT infrastructure simpler, more reliable and secure with flexibility built in, to adapt to changes in the council and how the ICT service is delivered;
To focus on business improvement, rather than housekeeping and troubleshooting;
To introduce new governance arrangements to simplify management processes and decision-making within the ICT service;
To adopt common processes and improve efficiency;
To save money and establish better control and value for money from future investment.

The main focus of the strategy related to security and business continuity. Much of the existing ICT infrastructure would need migrating to an external data centre with some of the existing software systems moving to external providers. This would reduce the need for on-site maintenance and management of the infrastructure and systems.

Details of the key elements of the strategy were also referred to along with the management of the project and of the ICT service going forward, including all the legal and financial implications.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Griffiths, proposed that the motion be put to:

(i) agree the ICT Strategy;
(ii) agree that the implementation costs be added to the capital programme;

This was seconded by Councillor Beirne.

Councillor Scarborough proposed an amendment to the proposition as follows:

(i) to agree the ICT Strategy;
(ii) to agree that the implementation cost of £450,000 be added to the capital programme.

Councillor Griffiths seconded this amendment.

On being put to the vote this was agreed and became the substantive motion.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the practicalities of transferring the data, the timescale, costings, security of data centres, the need for a member ICT champion and a request that they be regularly informed of developments. They also agreed that a modern fit for purpose ICT strategy was a good way forward giving a clear direction and significant revenue savings.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor G Lawman abstained from voting.)
RESOLVED that the:

(i) ICT strategy be approved;
(ii) Implementation costs of £450,000 be added to the capital programme.

Mayor………………………

The meeting closed at 8pm.