

## Part A - Report to CABINET

# Laptop Hardware Refresh

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Value for Money & Sustainability

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### Reason for Decision

This report seeks executive approval to rejuvenate our existing laptop device estate for Council staff. This strategic initiative aims to significantly enhance productivity, operational efficiency, and seamless compatibility with our existing suite of products across the Council.

### Executive Summary

This report recommends procuring laptops and new VPN solution for staff.

The high number of requests for new hardware from our IT department underpin the urgency to procure laptops and VPN licenses and to reduce the reuse of outdated laptop devices, ensuring we maintain high customer satisfaction and operational excellence.

A planned and phased procurement and deployment of new devices offers best value rather than relying on ad-hoc, break-fix replacement assets. Proactively replacing the laptops now enables us to secure advantageous pricing.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- (a) Approval is granted to progress the procurement of laptops and VPN licenses on a phased basis.

## Laptop Hardware Refresh

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Procuring new laptops will positively impact users within the Council across various departments and functions who currently rely on outdated laptop devices for their daily tasks.
- 1.2 Council IT receives requests for new hardware almost daily, highlighting the urgent need to stop procuring ad-hoc or reusing old Laptop devices to ensure best value.
- 1.3 Some of the council's core systems require upgrades by next year to versions which will be incompatible with our current laptop devices. This presents both operational risks in running key systems and security risks as current versions will become unsupported.

### 2 Current Position

- 2.1 This information is contained in PART B of this report.

### 3 Options/Alternatives

#### 3.1 Option 1: Do Nothing

Under this option, we would continue to utilise the ageing laptops until the end of their usable life. This approach entails several risks and disadvantages:

- **Increased Operational Risks:** As these devices age, they will likely experience significant performance degradation, leading to reduced system efficiency and compromised service delivery.
- **Rising Support Costs:** Older hardware tends to generate more frequent IT support calls, increasing the workload on our IT department and associated costs.
- **Economic Inefficiency:** Relying on ad-hoc, break-fix replacements funded by service budgets rather than planned capital investments is not cost-effective and can lead to unanticipated financial strain.

- 3.2 **Option 2:** This information is contained in PART B of this report.

#### 3.3 Option 3: Procure New Laptops and Implement a new VPN Solution

This option involves procuring new laptops.

- **Enhanced Productivity:** New laptops will ensure every staff member has a reliable and efficient device, significantly enhancing productivity and operational efficiency.
- **Cost Savings:** This information is contained in PART B of this report.

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- **Future-proof Connectivity:** This information is contained in PART B of this report.
  - **Reduced IT Support Costs:** New, standardised hardware will decrease the volume of IT support calls, allowing our IT department to focus on strategic initiatives.
  - **Security and Compliance:** This information is contained in PART B of this report.
  - **Flexibility:** This information is contained in PART B of this report.

## 4 Preferred Option

### 4.1 Option 3: Procure New Laptops and Implement a new VPN Solution

Option 3 is the preferred course of action. It provides a comprehensive solution that addresses the current and future needs of the Council. By procuring new laptops and implementing the new VPN solution, we can enhance productivity, ensure secure and reliable connectivity, reduce operational and support costs, and maintain high standards of service delivery. This proactive investment in our IT infrastructure is crucial for sustaining operational excellence and supporting the Council's strategic objectives.

## 5 Consultation

5.1 None

## 6 Financial Implications

6.1 This information is contained in PART B of this report.

## 7 Legal Implications

7.1 This information is contained in PART B of this report.

## 8 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

8.1 Detailed at Appendix 1.

## 9 Key Decision

9.1 Yes

## 10 Key Decision Reference

10.1 FCR-6-24

## 11 Background Papers

11.1 None

## 12 Appendices

12.2 Appendix 1 - Oldham Equality Impact Assessment.

