Report to Chief Executive

Firewall Colocation Hosting and Data Centre Exit – PART A

Officer Contact: Matthew Gratton, Director of Digital

Report Author: John Craig, Senior IT Project Manager
Email: john.craig@oldham.gov.uk

30th November 2026

Reason for Decision

Approval is sought to implement a new primary internet and security architecture through the procurement and deployment of two firewalls across two GM colocation sites.

Additional information can be found in PART B of this report.

Executive Summary

Oldham Council's network remains heavily reliant on the Civic Centre for internet connectivity, cloud access, and core network services. With the Civic Centre scheduled for decommission in 2027, this dependency presents a significant business risk, compounded by ageing infrastructure, complex network routing, and multiple single points of failure.

Additional information can be found in PART B of this report.

Recommendations

1. Proceed with the migration of the Council's core network from the Civic Centre to two GM Colocation sites and any remaining services to be migrated into Spindles PCR1 and PCR2, enabling the permanent shutdown of the Civic Centre Data Centre.

2. Authorise TDS to undertake all necessary design, testing, migration and decommissioning work, including coordination with third-party suppliers.

3. Complete decommissioning of all remaining networking equipment in the Civic Centre Data Centre once services are migrated allowing full decommission of IT services in the Civic Data Centre.

Leader's Consultative Session **30th November 2026**

Firewall Colocation Hosting and Data Centre Exit

1 Background

1.1 During an earlier discovery phase, TDS mapped all key network infrastructure, confirming that Oldham Council and 3rd parties remain heavily dependent on the Civic Centre for internet routing and core network services, including cloud connectivity.

1.2 To address this, the Council will prioritise the establishment of a new, resilient network core within two GM colocation facilities, providing a secure, dual-site architecture for internet routing and security services.

Additional information can be found in PART B of this report.

2 Current Position

2.1 The Council currently faces significant operational, resilience and service continuity risks due to its reliance on the Civic Centre for core network services, the presence of single points of failure, ageing infrastructure and the requirement to vacate the site as part of the Civic Centre redevelopment programme.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 **Option 1: Do Nothing**. Not viable.
Reason for Rejection: Leaving services in the Civic Centre would block the redevelopment programme and continue to expose the Council to significant operational risk due to single-point-of-failure infrastructure

3.2 **Option 2: Partial Migration**. Also, not viable.
Reason for Rejection: Keeping any critical systems in the Civic Centre would mean the building cannot be handed over to developers, and network instability would remain

3.3 **Option 3: Migrate to two GM Colocation Sites: (recommended)**.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 Option 3: Migrate to two GM Co-Hosted Sites.

Additional information can be found in PART B of this report.

5 Consultation

5.1 Additional information can be found in PART B of this report.

6 Financial Implications

This information can be found in PART B of this report

7 Legal Implications

This information can be found in PART B of this report.

8. **Procurement Implications**

This information can be found in PART B of this report

9 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

9.1 No impacts identified.

10 **Key Decision**

10.1 Yes

11 **Key Decision Reference**

11.1 KDD-26-29

12 **Background Papers**

12.1 None

13 **Appendices**

13.1 None