

**STRATEGIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**16 November 2004
6.00pm – 6.50pm

PRESENT: Cllr Reid (Chair), Cllrs Churchill, Downham, James, McPherson, Ward
Also Present: Executive Councillor, Cllr C Rosenstiel,

(Mr B Knights, B Taylor and J Bradley, representing ITNET, were present at the meeting for item 04/SIT/21)

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**04/SIT/17 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 29 July 2004 were confirmed as a correct record.

04/SIT/18 APOLOGIES

All members of the Committee were present.

04/SIT/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

04/SIT/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

04/SIT/21 KEY DECISION - IT CONTRACT RE-TENDERING OPTIONS

The report by the Director of Central Services set out the background to the proposed retendering of the current IT contract with ITNET which was to expire at the end of November 2005, but could be extended for up to two years.

The Council had commissioned a study from SOCITM consultancy to provide advice on whether the contract should be extended or re-let. The consultant's report was appended to the officers' report. A paper had been submitted by ITNET commenting on the report by SOCITM consultancy and suggesting a way forward, and this was circulated to members.

Resolved to exclude the press and public during discussion of the appendix to the report and submission by ITNET, on the basis that if the public were present there would be information disclosed which is exempt from publication under paragraph 7, 8 and 9 of the Council's Constitution, Part 4B.

Members discussed the implications of the options set out in the report by SOCITM and the proposals made by ITNET.

The Committee agreed by 6 votes to 0 to endorse the recommendations set out in the report.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

04/SIT/22 **KEY DECISION - IEG (IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT) STATEMENT 4**

The IT Contract Manager said that the Implementing Electronic Government Statement for 2004 was due to be returned to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by 20th December 2004. The officers proposed that IEG statement was circulated in draft to Strategic IT Scrutiny Committee members by e-mail, and referred to the Executive Councillor (Strategic IT) for approval following consultation with members of the Committee.

Resolved that this approach to completion and submission of the IEG be approved.

04/SIT/23 **PROJECT APPRAISAL FOR INFORMATION ASSET REGISTER - TIF FUND APPLICATION**

The Information Management Officer reminded members that the Freedom of Information Act would come fully into force on 1 January 2005. One of the requirements would be that the Council respond to requests for information within 20 working days. To enable the authority to meet this timetable, officers recommended the installation of Paribus Information Asset Register, software created to allow staff to carry out a search for documents relevant to requests and to respond within the deadline. The system has been developed with funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and designed particularly for use by local authorities. The Project Appraisal setting out the implications and timetabling for the project had been circulated with the agenda.

Members agreed by 6 votes to 0 to recommend the Deputy Leader approve the Project Appraisal for the purchase of Paribus Information Asset Register System software, to be funded from the Technology Investment Fund (TIF).

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendation.

04/SIT/24 **ORAL UPDATE ON WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT**

The Director of Central Services reported orally on the current status of the Council's new website. The launch of the new site had been postponed to allow Heads of Services to review the content and its navigability in view of concern expressed by Corporate Management Team. She confirmed that the launch would not take place until Heads of Service and Directors were satisfied that the site was of sufficiently high standard.

The Committee noted the report.

CHAIR