

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2000

BUILDING AND WORKS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM

Director of Homes and Technical Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to withdraw from the current arrangements of using the Glasgow Servitor Computer System and to acquire the new Servitor System supported by East Ayrshire Council's IT Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of the Building and Works Recovery Plan, Committee approval was sought and obtained to use the computerised repairs system, operated by Glasgow City Council, and originally developed jointly by them and FCS Servitor. The system was implemented in January 2000 and is currently operating successfully. However it was always envisaged that these arrangements would be an interim solution only, to allow the Council time to seek out and examine alternative arrangements.

3. PRESENT POSITION

- 3.1 As indicated above the Glasgow system is now in place and the key processes are generally satisfactory. However the system has been heavily modified to meet Glasgow City Council's own business processes and working procedures and, as was anticipated, is not wholly suitable for the Council's requirements.
- 3.2 At the same time Glasgow's Housing Department and Building and Works Department are undergoing considerable changes in anticipation of their possible Housing stock transfer. As a result they find it difficult to continue to support East Ayrshire's requirements, particularly any requirements for system modification, development or improvement. There have been regular meetings and contact with senior staff in Glasgow, and they have shown complete willingness to assist. Nevertheless there are a number of competing demands upon their limited resources.
- 3.3 Accordingly it is now clear that the time is ripe to bring forward the implementation of a new system.

4. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 4.1 In conjunction with the Head of Building and Works, Head of IT and the Head of Accounting Services, a system specification has been drawn up and tested against the standard Servitor package.

That examination of the Servitor package against the Council's detailed system specification had shown that it met the Council's Building and Works current and future requirements, and that it enhanced the business processes, particularly in terms of costing and controls. It also comes equipped with

strong reporting facilities. The view of the appropriate officers, therefore, including the Head of Building and Works, the Head of IT, and the Head of Accounting Services, is that the package is suitable and appropriate for the Council, and should be purchased.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted on the implications of acquiring the package. Her view is that, in the light of the fact that this package is directly related to the Glasgow system already in operation within the Council, it is not necessary to go to tender for this system. Accordingly it is recommended that the system be acquired at the costs set out in section 6 below.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The estimated cost of the new system in 2000/01 is as follows:

Hardware	£
Sun 450 Server (annual lease for each of 3 years including Maintenance)	16,000
Software	
Purchase of software and professional assistance	121,800
Annual support charge	15,300
Total Expenditure in 2000/01	£153,100

The cost of the software is an initial expense. The lease and the annual support charge totalling £31,300 are recurring expenses. There are provisions in the Building and Works Revenue budget and the IT Capital budget to cover the cost of the system in 2000/01.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that Committee agree to the acquisition of the standard FCS Servitor package for Building and Works at the costs set out at 6.1 above.

James Lavery
 Director of Homes and Technical Services
 JL/WT
 28 August 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Anyone wishing further information should contact James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services on 01563 554875

Implementation Officer: James Lavery

AGENDA