

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
18th April 2002

**2002 / 03 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME**

Report by Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the Information Technology Capital Expenditure Programme for 2002 / 03.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At Policy and Resources Committee of 1st February 2002, Members approved the allocation of £ 380,000 of Capital Funds for the ICT projects within 2002 / 03.

This report proposes the utilisation of these allocated funds.

3 PROPOSED EXPENDITURE

3.1 The following schemes have been identified for expenditure in 2001 / 02 with the sums allocated as follows :

Infrastructure and Telephony	:	£ 13,000
Corporate and Departmental Schemes	:	£ 367,000
<u>Total</u>	:	£ <u>380,000</u>

3.2 Based upon the prioritisation of individual project requirements, established through discussions at the Information and Communications Technology Steering Group (ICTSG), a detailed programme has been developed which is attached as Appendix 1 of this Report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposed IT Capital Expenditure Programme will be contained within the overall available levels of funding.

5.0 LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These proposals support the development and implementation of the Council's new corporate financial management system, and assist in the overall development of the Corporate ICT Strategy.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members approve the proposed 2002 / 03 IT Capital Expenditure Programme.

Fiona Lees
Director of Corporate Resources

25th March 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

For further information, please contact Malcolm Roulston, Head of Information Technology (Tel : 01563 576809).

APPENDIX 1

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME

1 Infrastructure and Telephony

1.1 Additional Data Hub Units

Provision is made to cover the cost of installing additional data network switches within the Council's main offices, which will serve to increase data throughput, and to improve network efficiency for data network users.

1.2 Help Line Telephony Upgrade

Provision is made to cover the cost of upgrading the Council's Help Line which will increase resilience and improve external access.

2 Corporate and Departmental Schemes

2.1 E.Commerce / Web Enablement of Applications

Provision is made to pilot the Web enablement of existing software applications in support of the Scottish Executive's Electronic Government initiative.

2.2 Server Management Software

Provision is made to implement a pilot applications server management software system within IT Services which will facilitate the remote management of key UNIX based systems and support increased resilience and disaster recovery of servers.

2.3 Business Objects Corporate Licence

Provision is made to purchase a corporate licence for the Council's Business Objects systems reporting tool thereby minimising the cost of future upgrades across individual systems and simplifying contract administration and licence control.

2.4 UNIX Test Server

Provision is made to purchase a UNIX based software applications test server which will be used to comprehensively test new revisions of software applications before they are implemented on live systems.

2.5 WNT/2000 Disaster Recovery

Provision is made to upgrade critical corporate and departmental file server systems to meet increased usage, and to provide greater resilience and disaster recovery for both file and electronic mail servers.

2.6 Finance Systems Replacement

Provision is made to cover the cost of completing the project to replace the Council's inherited financial management systems (Ledger, Cash Receipting, Debtors, Creditors, Commitment Accounting, etc).

2.7 Cash Receipting

Provision is made to cover the cost of implementing a replacement Cash Receipting system which will integrate with the Council's new financial management system, and which will replace the existing ex-District Council Cash Receipting system which is no longer supported by the supplier.

This new system will also provide greater functionality in support of the Scottish Executive's Electronic Government initiative.

2.8 Consolidated Revenues / Benefits System

Provision is made to cover the cost of implementing a consolidated Revenues and Benefits system as an extension to the existing Council Tax system, and which will replace the existing ex-District Council Benefits system.

This is required to ensure continued suppliers support and to simplify the interface between the Benefits and Council Tax systems thereby improving usability of the combined application.