

**e-GOVERNMENT TASK GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 10.00 am on 21 MARCH 2002**

Present:- Councillor R A Merrion – Chairman.
Councillors A R Thawley and R W L Stone.

Officers in attendance:- Mrs M Cox, Miss N Cox and J K Mercer.

EG4 MINUTES

The notes of the meeting held of 7 February 2002 were signed as a correct record.

EG5 BUSINESS ARISING

A decision on whether the Council had been successful in its partnership bid was expected by the end of April.

An alternative supplier had been identified who may be able to help Councillor Bowker address the difficulties he was experiencing using the Council's computer systems.

EG6 IT PROGRAMME 2002/03

At the meeting of the Resources Committee on 24 January 2002, it had been resolved that the sum of £150,000 be included in the 2002/03 Capital Programme for IT developments. In addition, to assist the Council meet the e-Government target, the Government had provided a £200,000 capital grant. Consequently, the sum of £350,000 had been included in the Council's 2002/03 approved Capital Programme. A further Government grant of £200,000 would be provided in 2003/04, but only if the Council was able to demonstrate that adequate progress towards the 2005 e-Government targets was being made. Councillor Stone emphasised that the Government grants would not be sufficient to fund the whole e-Government development.

Officers had undertaken further detailed investigation of the possible projects in terms of cost and priorities. The report considered by the Task Group set out the proposed projects for 2002/03 along with a list of possible alternatives. The Revenue Budget consequences of the proposed programme were explained. Most items would have little or no net revenue budget implications. However, due to timing differences between cost and savings, additional revenues expenditure of £12,880 would be incurred in 2003. It was recommended that this be funded from the Council's reserves.

The Head of IT and Audit Services explained that it was not proposed, at this stage, to introduce security vulnerable testing, which had been suggested by District Audit. This was designed to test the Council technical defences against unauthorised access or hacking and would cost around £10,000 per annum. He explained that, if the proposed web-hosting project were approved, much of the security protection would be managed by a specialist

external company. Councillor Thawley understood that there were companies that offered free testing and officers agreed to investigate this.

The Members Reference Group for the Corporate Support Services Best Value Review had recommended that external consultants be appointed at a cost of £10,000 to be met from the Best Value Reserve to assist in the development of the Council's e-Government strategy.

Members considered the programme in detail. It was recommended that the programme for 2002/03 include the following projects.

Web Hosting

National Land and Properties Gazetteer

e-payments (including credit/debit card facilities)

Web Site Development

Content Management Software

I World – Revenues

DIP Planning

Electoral Registration – Migration to Windows

Funding of Minor Projects

Upgrade to Windows 2000/Citrix XP/2000

Uttlesfords Extranet (subject to additional Government partnership funding)

Other projects had been placed in the reserve programme. The proposed programme for 2002/03 included a number of new projects and these would require extensive testing prior to going live. Members agreed that the proposal for a test network of £27,280 should be number one priority on the reserve programme, if any additional funding became available or any of the projects did not go ahead.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 the programme set out in appendix one to the report be approved
- 2 the additional one off net revenue cost of £12,880 in 2002/03 as set out in appendix 3 be funded from reserves
- 3 the appointment of external consultants to assist in the development of the Council's e-Government Strategy at a cost of £10,000 be met from the Best Value Reserve.

EG7

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held with the Senior Officers and Members on 24 April 2002.

A further meeting would be held at 10.30 am on 22 May 2002 when a speaker would be invited.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm.