Committee:	IT Working Group	Agenda Item
Date:	**7 January 2009**	**6**
Title:	**Staffing and Workload**	
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Summary

1. This report is to advise Members of the current position with regards to staffing and highlights from some key projects.

Recommendations

2. The report is noted.

Background Papers

None

Situation

3. Staffing numbers are almost back to full quota. The last vacancy is for an Infrastructure Analyst which will be filled shortly which will bring the Blade server project team up to full strength.

4. Members will recall the significant problems that arose following the failure of the Revenues and Benefits system in April 2008. There was already money in the capital programme in 2008/09 for the replacement of this server.

5. The new server was purchased in September and is now fully commissioned and working. Migration and first use issues were minimal and the project has proven to be a big success.

6. At present the support of the server and applications is outsourced to a third party (Digica) whilst application back-up is a council responsibility. Digica also provide a hot restart facility in the event of a disaster. Following the problems in April a meeting was held between Digica and Uttlesford ICT staff as a learning event. An outcome of this is that discussions have been held with Digica in respect of back-ups and it is likely that back-ups will in the future be done by them which will enable better disaster recovery systems to be in place.

7. The Finance ICT Team has completed the roll-out of automated payment for invoices and benefit claimants. This will save significant direct costs in cheque production and postage.

8. In respect of postage costs changes such as those identified in point 7 above plus the introduction of TNT in October 2007 as our second class mail

providers and the drive to promote second class postage use has seen our postage costs drop significantly:

	£
2006/07	143,300
2007/08	115,350
2008/09 (extrapolated)	75,000

9. The testing of the finance linked ordering system is almost complete and a test section for piloting the product (probably ICT) will commence using the system at the start of February. The aim is to roll the system out to all areas by the Summer of 2009.

10. The Finance ICT Team is also looking to implement, having tested, an integrated asset management module within the finance system.