

Committee: IT Working Group
Date: 7 January 2009
Title: Blade Server Project
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Agenda Item

7

Item for
Information

Summary

1. This report is to advise Members of the progress on the blade server project.

Recommendations

2. Members note the content of this report.

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Staff are being consulted throughout the implementation process
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	The funds required are available from a mix of both capital and revenue budgets.
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	Will be an impact as changeover occurs but will reduce downtime from system failures significantly.

Situation

3. Following the removal of the freeze on capital spending as a result of the Landsbanki situation, the blade server project is now beginning to progress.
4. The infrastructure team should be fully in place by the end of January which will tie in with the reduced tender process that the project will need to go through.
5. Uttlesford is primarily a mixed Dell and HP site and as such the server reduction and virtualization solutions offered by each company will form the basis for discussion and decision on the best way forward. Officers have now had meetings with both companies and discussed the solutions on offer.
6. Meetings have also been held with Chelmsford Borough Council around shared disaster recovery of the virtualized environments. Primarily some of our equipment would be located in their IT room in case of emergency and we would reciprocate with their equipment being located in the server room in Saffron Walden. In the event of a major failure such as loss of the Saffron Walden building our key staff would be able to log into our machines located at Chelmsford and be working again within hours.
7. We are in the process of obtaining a tender document from another council which will then need refinement to meet our requirements.
8. The council expects to issue a formal tender document in February with the project starting early in the new financial year.