Wireless network upgrade

IT Working Group, item 4

Committee:	**IT Working Group**	**Agenda Item 4**
Date:	**14 March 2007**	
Title:	**Wireless network upgrade**	
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Summary

1. This report provides details of the planned upgrade to the existing wireless network.

Background

2. A basic wireless network was installed early in 2004. This network consists of remote access points which are similar to those used in wireless working in the home. Whilst the network was sufficient to meet the requirements at that time the needs of the council have changed and the wireless network is struggling to cope.

3. In January 2007 our network support partner undertook a detailed review of the wireless network within the Saffron Walden building and came up with a number of recommendations to improve the existing network and/or upgrade to a more professional one.

The Way Forward

4. Given the rapid change in work patterns, with more remote and home based working leading to more hot desking requirement within the Saffron Walden building, improving the existing network would have been a short term fix which would have needed reviewing within 2 years. Accordingly the decision was taken to implement a new intelligent network. In addition to the main wireless data network we will also be introducing a wireless telephony network which will enable staff to use IP telephones to make call or answer their extension where ever they are within the building. This telephone network will be based on Siemens technology, the same as our existing telephone system.

5. A third network is also being installed which will provide free internet access to third parties using the Saffron Walden building. This could be consultants working for the council or people attending seminars in the civic suite. This network is totally separate from the other two and is linked to a broadband line, it does not go anywhere near the council data network or infrastructure.

6. Our network support partner is about to undertake detailed wireless usage and coverage over a 5 day period to determine the exact number of access points which will be required and from there the associated cost.

7. Once the final report is produced the order will be placed with our partner with the intention of having the networks up and running prior to the council innovation day which is planned for the summer.

8. There is sufficient budget available to fund this project.

9. Included within the Background Papers is the draft report for information.

Background Papers

Draft wireless survey report