

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date:</b> 15 February 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Application Rationalisation / Consolidation	
<b>Report of</b>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR	

## Summary

When the ICT Capital Programme was agreed at Full Council in February 2019, and the subsequent Cloud Migration Programme stage agreed at Full Council in March 2021 it was done based on the recognition of the importance of the Council having a modern and resilient IT estate that would enable agile working and transformation of services.

Underpinning the Council's new approach to Information Technology and Digital was the deployment of a Microsoft Azure Cloud Platform. This deployment has enabled the Council to begin the process of replacing its ageing, inflexible, legacy systems and facilities with a next generation digital platform. The intention is that this will support the transformation of services, alleviating some of the current delivery risks that the Council faces due to the non-reliability of iT applications.

Although moving to Azure is the preferred architecture design principle, unfortunately, some of legacy applications are not compatible with the Azure platform, for example, Lalpac for Licensing and Acolaid for Planning and Building Control.

After undertaking market research, new solutions came to light that can also provide additional case management for the Council's Public Protection and Private Sector Housing services. The case management of these areas is currently provided by Civica APP which, if not included within this project would also need to be moved onto the Azure platform separately and require additional support, maintenance and ongoing licence costs.

After through market testing it is recommended that these systems should be consolidated. This will, in turn, reduce the amount of servers ICT would need to provide and maintain in the Azure platform, along with any associated operating system and database costs.

The application consolidation process would also reduce the amount of annual maintenance fees payable to three different suppliers, and are set out in the Part B.

The business areas within the scope of the Application Consolidation project are as follows: -

- Building control
- Land Charges

- Licensing
- Planning
- Private Sector Housing
- Public Protection

An open tender exercise has taken place using an appropriate procurement route, and the submissions have been evaluated and moderated by all stakeholders. Further details included in Part B

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **That:**

Cabinet approves the decision to procure the solution as detailed on Part B to allow the continuation of the cloud migration programme.

### **Reasons for recommendation(s)**

- 1 The savings that will be generated as detailed in Part B.
- 2 Two of the legacy applications are not Microsoft Azure compatible and the servers that they currently reside on will be out of security support by the end of the 2023.
- 3 The existing servers reside within the Town Hall and Textile Hall data centres which are due to be decommissioned by the end of 2023.

### **Alternative options considered and rejected**

Alternative options would be to continue to invest in the Council's on-premise data centre which is high risk due to the age of the hardware and infrastructure. In this case the Council would not benefit from having data stored in a cloud environment, or the improved data management to support the delivery of high-quality business intelligence.

The Council retains the option to upgrade to newer Azure compatible solutions and remain with the existing suppliers of the legacy systems, however this would mean continuing to pay three sets of maintenance fees for the separate systems and would not realise the benefit of a fully integrated solution.

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### **Links with the Corporate Priorities:**

The Application Consolidation project forms part of the Cloud Migration project and is mentioned specifically as a key deliverable within the Internal Transformation strategy for Corporate Core Services.

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**Equality Impact and Considerations:**

<i>Equality Analysis</i>	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA</i>
<i>Full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is available upon request</i>	

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**Environmental Impact and Considerations:**

1. As set out in the Part B report

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**Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:**

<b>Risk / opportunity</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<p>Risks: -</p> <p>Without approval of the procurement of the Consolidated Application, the Council will still need upgrade two of the legacy systems to Azure approved versions, to ensure the continuity of service within Planning, Building Control and Licensing areas</p> <p>Opportunities: -</p> <p>The centralisation of data relating to properties and vehicles, e.g., a property record can display all data relating to Planning, Building Control, Land Charges, Environmental Health, and Licensing.</p> <p>The consolidation of three separate maintenance and servicing contracts</p> <p>Increased negotiating abilities at contract renewal</p>	<p>Begin consultation process with suppliers of Lalpac and Acolaid applications to begin immediate upgrade to Azure approved solutions before the decommissioning of the Town Hall and Textile Hall data centres.</p>

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**Legal Implications:**

The recommendation to appoint the preferred supplier follows a competitive tender procedure, which was in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. It should provide significant savings over

the five-year contract period.

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**Financial Implications:**

The savings identified within Part B on this agenda are included within the transformation savings delivery already built into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, within the LET'S Do It! ... Well part of the programme.

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**Appendices:**

None

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**Background papers:**

None

**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**

Term	Meaning