



Cabinet 12 September 2012

Recommendations from the Shared Services Steering Group: 30 August 2012 (Sep12/07)

Cabinet Member:
Cllr John Griffiths

Vice Chairman of the Steering Group:
Cllr David Ray

1. ICT Shared Service – ICT Mobile Device Use (Report SSG12/024)

RECOMMENDED:-

That, a project be initiated to draw up proposals for how to gain best advantage from the use of mobile technology, as detailed in Section 2.2 of Report SSG12/024.

Investigations have been taking place with regard to the provision of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Members, in particular in relation to flexible and mobile working. This has highlighted the fact that there are currently differences in the way ICT services for remote working in general are provided by Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils. It is important, therefore, that any new proposals take this into consideration and such options for mobile working focus on providing a joint corporate solution that can be rolled out across both authorities. Communication has also been undertaken with Suffolk County Council regarding its plans for this type of facility, as it would be advantageous to have a solution that was compatible across both tiers of authority. This would enable Councillors that serve both Borough/District and County Councils to use just one device.

Smartphones are already used for access to email and calendars by both authorities and it is recognised that extending the use of mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets could help provide significant productivity improvements and make access to information more freely and easily available.

The wider use of mobile devices has however highlighted the need for more stringent control and management of these devices, particularly in relation to maintaining compliance with the Government Code of Connection. The ICT team has researched the market for implementing an appropriate 'Mobile Device Management' solution to address this issue, the costs of which were outlined in the report.