Rossendalealive
BOROUGH COUNCIL

TITLE: PURCHASE OF INTRANET AND COMMUNITY PORTAL SOFTWARE

TO/ON: CABINET / 29 MARCH 2006

BY: HEAD OF CUSTOMER SERVICES AND E-GOVERNMENT AND HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: CABINET MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES

STATUS: FOR PUBLICATION

1.   PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report seeks to inform the Cabinet of the purchase of software required for the implementation of a Rossendale Borough Council Intranet and Community Portal. The project will involve the design, development and implementation of the Jadu software and will require an additional server for the Intranet.

2.   RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1   Members to support and note the implementation of a Rossendale Borough Council Community Portal and Intranet site.

2.2   Members to note the standing orders have been waived for the purchase of the Jadu software because the contract is an extension of an existing product; please refer to section 19.1 paragraph 3 of the standing orders.

3.   REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

3.1   The Jadu Intranet is a user friendly piece of software and is based on the Management System with similar features and modules that enable publishing to an Intranet website. The design of the Intranet interface is similar to the style and layout of the RBC web site, enabling users to understand where to find key items and features using easy navigational elements.

3.2   The current Abacus Intranet does not work and does not support all the Rossendale functional requirements. In addition there are other problems such as some users are unable to access the Intranet due to domain problems. The existing Intranet is badly designed and does not meet the required Implementing Electronic Government standards.

3.3   The Jadu Community Portal is a user friendly piece of software which enables non technical users to build and manage content for Community Websites. The application utilises the existing Website Content Management System. The Rossendale IT team will be responsible for the technical development of the Portal, The Community and Partnership Team will be responsible for the development of the individual web sites including content and also the promotion of the Portal. The Rossendale IT Team will check the content of all the web sites before they are published and the process for authorisation will be the same as the existing web site.

3.4   The awarding of the contract will also provide Rossendale Borough Council with a Business Continuity Management / Disaster Recovery facility at no extra charge and will ensure compliance with the Civil Contingency Act Category 1. The BCM cover will apply when the RBC Intranet is hosted on its own server following the development phase of the project.

4.   CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

4.1   FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1.1   The capital cost of purchasing the Jadu Intranet software is £18,000 and is contained within the existing Implementing Electronic Government budget.

4.1.2   There is no initial software support or hosting costs because the Intranet will be hosted on a development server located at the Jadu offices in Leicester during all the design and development phases of the project. This agreement will run to the 1st of September 2006.

4.1.3   A yearly revenue provision has been made to cover the software support costs from the 1st September 2006 of £2,700. In addition the Intranet will incur a hosting charge because the existing web server is not big enough to host the Rossendale Borough Council Web Site, Community Portal and Intranet. The cost of hosting will depend on the size of server used i.e. a Standard server is £4,000 a professional server would cost £7,000 per annum. Rossendale will determine which server to use during the development and testing phase of the project so that we can minimise any potential revenue exposure to the Council.

4.1.4   The capital cost of purchasing the Community Portal is £15,000 and the initial software support costs are £1487.50, this agreement will run to the 1st of September 2006. All costs will be funded by the Implementing Electronic Government budget; in addition there is no hardware or hosting costs, because the software can run on the existing web server and will also be incorporated under the hardware support agreement at no further cost. It will also remove the costs associated with hosting the existing LSP web site on another domain.

4.1.5   A yearly revenue provision has been made to cover the software support costs from the 1st September 2006 of £2,550.

4.2   MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS

4.2.1   The implementation of a new Intranet system will allow members easier access to information. Members are critical to the success of the establishment of the

Intranet in terms of both promoting and driving forward the concept of a new Intranet throughout Rossendale.

4.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

4.3.1 All the Rossendale Borough Council Officers and Members will benefit from the new Intranet and where appropriate training will be provided.

4.3.2 The Community and Partnerships Team will benefit from the Community Portal and it will enable them to create Community Web Sites utilising the existing Jadu content management software.

5 ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 Customer Services is one of the eight corporate priorities identified by Rossendale Borough Council in its corporate improvement plan and the implementation of both the Intranet and Community Portal will assist in the achievement of this particular corporate priority.

6 RISK

6.1 The Council has sought to mitigate its risk by purchasing software that is already proven and has been implemented in other councils.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM REPORT

7.1 As stated above Members to note Section 19.1 paragraph 3.

8 EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT

8.1 None.

9 WARDS AFFECTED

9.1 All.

10 CONSULTATIONS

10.1 None.

Background Information

Reference Material: Purchase of the Website Content Management System 21/7/05

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:
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