

DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE AUTHORITY

(Item 28, page 3.7-11 of the Constitution - Authority given to the Business Managers)

<b>Business Manager:</b> Paul Warters	<b>Direct Line:</b> 252290 <b>E-mail:</b> pwarters@oxford.gov.uk	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>To:</b>		
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Dan Paskins	
Opposition Representatives	Councillors John Goddard; Craig Simmons; & Stuart Craft.	
Strategic Director:	Mark Luntley	

**Subject** - This report concerns the software operating licence for the Council's principal Revenues and Benefits computer systems. The present agreement with the suppliers is due to expire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

The Revenues & Benefits computer systems ensure the effective and efficient administration, operation and management of the following key Council systems:

- a) Benefits administration;
- b) Council Tax billing & collection;
- c) Business Rates billing & collection; &
- d) Benefit Overpayment management & collection.

These systems are essential to the revenue collection services and administration of housing benefit. Therefore all have an impact on the corporate objectives for maintaining financial stability and provision of quality services.

It is therefore essential to maintain a stable computing environment for the Revenues, Benefits, Housing & Customer services.

**Alternatives Considered** - During the original tendering exercise, in 2000, three solutions were short listed for further evaluation. At the time two were considered as market leaders, one of which was subsequently awarded the contract. The situation concerning the leading suppliers hasn't altered. The current solution has if anything strengthened its position with an increased number of customers in excess of 120 Councils. As a result it has been decided that the Council retains the existing systems.

The current suppliers have provided three options to renew the present software licence:-

- a) To convert into a perpetual licence;
- b) A fixed term extension with full payment due on 1<sup>st</sup> October;
- c) A fixed term extension payable by an annual licence fee.

The Revenues & Benefits Business Unit does not have a budget to meet either options a) and b).

In the circumstances the decision has been taken to renew the present software agreement on a 5½-year basis, payable by an annual licence fee of £21,300 and funded within existing budgets.

<b>PLEASE RETURN ATTACHED REPLY SLIP TO:</b>  Paul Warters	by: 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2005
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Officers should fill in all sections and provide a completed form for inclusion in Executive Board papers.

Signed by Strategic Director: Date: 31 - Aug - 2005

Mark Lunt

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**COUNCILLOR REPLY SLIP**

**Return to:**

Officer's name: Paul Warters – Business Manager – Revenues & Benefits  
 Subject matter: Revenues & Benefits computer software operating licence.

From: Councillor <u>DAN PASKINS</u>
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**Please tick one:**

- I agree the action proposed to be taken and detailed in the attached form, in accordance with delegated power 28 in the officers scheme of delegation
- I do not agree the action proposed to be taken and detailed in the attached form, in accordance with delegated power 28 in the officers scheme of delegation

Signature: D. Paskins

Date: 18/8/05