
NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS AT WEST PARK HOSPITAL AND HUNDENS LANE

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Veronica Copeland,
Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio**

Responsible Director - Murray Rose, Director of Commissioning

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval from Members for the release of capital funds for IT and network improvements for Darlington Borough Council staff working at West Park Hospital and sharing accommodation with colleagues from Health at Hundens Lane.

Summary

2. Council staff working out of West Park Hospital and Hundens Lane have experienced poor performance in relation to accessing critical systems such as Care First and CareStore for example (the current social care case management and document management systems) and in some instances have been unable to access these systems at all. This is impacting upon their ability to work effectively in these locations, and officers are often having to spend time using 'hot-desks' in other locations such as Central House in order to update key IT systems.
3. The proposal outlined in this report would improve the network connectivity between these two locations and the Town Hall, enabling staff to work more effectively within their teams and with partners (Tees Esk and Wear Valley Trust (TEWV); and County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT)) in a co-located operating model.
4. The improvements works which includes high speed network connectivity, upgraded telephony and PCs at both sites will cost £57,900 over three years (this includes both capital and revenue costs).

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the release £24,900 from the capital budget to fund these IT and network improvements and in doing so notes that the ongoing revenue costs for the three year period (£33,000) are already included in the existing revenue budgets.

Reason

6. To support Darlington Borough Council's commitment to the co-located operating model with TEWV and the CDDFT based at West Park Hospital and Hundens Lane respectively.

Murray Rose
Director of Commissioning

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder
Health and Well Being	Improving the network performance will be beneficial to health and wellbeing
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	There are no diversity issues in this report
Wards Affected	Faverdale; Lingfield
Groups Affected	Not applicable
Budget and Policy Framework	The report does not represent a change to the budget framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The continuance of the co-located operating model is critical to supporting the delivery of the objectives within One Darlington particularly around health and wellbeing
Efficiency	The decision will contribute to a saving in officer time and will reduce workload in terms of workarounds currently in place due to poor IT connectivity.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. Officers have undertaken to build a proposal outlining issues currently being experienced by staff at West Park and Hundens Lane in terms of accessing IT systems and applications. The costs for the proposal which includes upgrading the network link to both sites; installing new telephony equipment and new PCs; and cabling works to accommodate the upgraded network and associated power requirements is set out in this report.

Financial Implications

8. The costs are summarised below:

West Park (20 PCs)

Network Connection to Town Hall	£2,500
Annual Rental for Connection to Town Hall (3yr)	£15,000
Cisco Site Switch (2no)	£3,500
Cisco Telephone Handsets and Licenses	£5,000
Network Points (20no)	£1,300
Electrical Points (20no)	TBA
Canon MFD Print Anywhere	From spare stock
TOTAL	£27,300

Hundens Lane (8 PCs)

Network Connection to Town Hall Installation	£2,500
Annual Rental for Connection to Town Hall (3 yr)	£18,000
Standard PC with 19" screen	£3,808
Licences for Corporate Desktops	£2,172
Cisco Site Switch	£1,600
Cisco Telephone Handsets and Licences	£2,000
Network Points (8no)	£520
Electrical Points (16no)	TBA
Canon MFD Print Anywhere	From spare stock
TOTAL	£30,600

9. These works can be funded in this financial year from the Adult Social Care Networking Improvement budget and existing revenue expenditure, which includes the annual rental for a three year period.

HR Implications

10. There are no changes to terms and conditions or duties and responsibilities in respect of staff.

Corporate Landlord Advice

11. There may be legal implications associated with this proposal in terms of property considerations. These are being addressed by the Estates and Property sections of the relevant organisations and will be set out in Heads of Terms which will accompany the formal occupation agreements.

Procurement Advice

12. Procurement of the network improvements has been carried out by IT using existing framework agreements. Telephony equipment and PCs will be procured via existing contracts.

Consultation

13. Consultation with staff impacted by these proposals has already been undertaken by the agencies involved.

Outcome of Consultation

14. Staff welcome the proposals as they can appreciate that their ability to work effectively from their main office location will be improved by consistent higher speed access to IT systems and applications.