

## **THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Title of meeting:** Resources Portfolio  
**Subject:** Data Centre Accommodation  
**Date of meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016  
**Report by:** Director of Finance and Information Services  
**Wards affected:** All

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**1 Requested by: Councillor Lee Mason**

**2 Purpose**

To inform the Cabinet Member on the current status of the accommodation project on the ground floor of the Civic Offices next to the Data Centre.

**3 Information Requested**

**3.1 Introduction**

The principle adopted when the new Data Centre was built in 2013 was to locate it using the accommodation space next to the old data centre. This would enable the old data centre to be kept fully operational during the build followed by the migration of all the equipment to the new data centre once complete. This was considered to cause the least disruption to services and therefore deemed the least risk option. This meant that the majority of staff working in the accommodation side were moved to other locations across the Civic Offices leaving just the computer operators onsite to maintain the equipment. Thus the operators were 'shoehorned' into the room where the large corporate printers were installed.

The second phase was always planned to be the reverse, turning the old data centre into an accommodation area followed by the relocation of those original members of staff back onto the ground floor. Noting that siting the computer operators with the large printers was thought to be acceptable on a temporary basis as it was considered that this second phase would not be a lengthy exercise.

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### **3.2 Background**

When it was realised that the accommodation build was more complex than originally thought it was imperative that the computer operators were moved to a more suitable location however this has resulted in them being relocated some distance from the equipment they maintain which has had an impact on service delivery as it causes unnecessary movement to and from the data centre.

The complexity with the build arose during the design process as the investigation into the basic infrastructure highlighted that the area was never designed to accommodate staff and therefore would need substantial investment on all the basic utilities.

The consequence was that once the new specification was completed additional funding had to be sought followed by a procurement exercise to identify the contractor. Some further delay has been caused as this exercise then conflicted with other priority accommodations projects (e.g. letting the Brunel Wing, Chaucer House, etc.) which has slowed progress however is now underway.

### **3.3 Current Status**

The plan of the layout (Appendix A) was agreed some months ago and formed the basis of the procurement exercise, the tender has been let with the build scheduled to start at the end of February / early March.

It will provide not only the working area for the computer operators and a separate area for the large corporate printers, but in addition a storage area for new equipment and maintenance stock, a workshop / build area for Technicians and an additional hot-desking area for Infrastructure Engineers to work in close proximity to the servers / switchgear etc.

It should be noted that this accommodation project is part of a larger accommodation programme. Once complete it will enable release of several areas around the Civic Offices and Chaucer House and thereby the consolidation of the Information Service and the Corporate Finance Team onto the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Civic Offices which will provide a preferential solution supporting the two services amalgamated under one Director.

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Signed by (Director)

**Appendices:** Appendix A - Plan of IS Accommodation Area (Ground Floor)

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| <b>Title of document</b> | <b>Location</b> |
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