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**Standards Committee 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Report of the Interim Director of Finance**

**Members Blackberry Provision**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To report the outcome of the review of the Council Policy regarding the provision of Blackberry devices to Members and to provide the associated costs of the various types of equipment which ICT Services provides to Members.

**Background**

2. At the meeting of the Members ICT Working Group (11<sup>th</sup> March 2008), it was agreed that, if requested, Blackberry devices would be made available to those Members who do not take a broadband service from the Council as the costs are comparable (see comparison table in Appendix 1 below).
3. At the Standards Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 an action for the Members ICT Working Group was minuted as follows:-:-

*That, arising from the detailed consideration given to the provision of a suitable mobile communication device (Blackberry type) and the information given at the meeting in relation to cost savings for the provision of such devices and the features available to Members, the Members ICT Working Group be requested to give further consideration to the provision of a suitable mobile communication device (Blackberry type) to all Members who request one, such device to be in addition to and not instead of a laptop given the comments expressed on the need for appropriate provision and support to be given to Members in their work again on the basis of them requesting such provision and that following such consideration the matter be reported back to a future meeting of the Standards Committee.*

4. The Members ICT Working Group was established more than nine years ago to plan and provide a strategic steer on ICT Policy regarding the provision of ICT equipment and services to elected Members. The group is currently chaired by Cllr Les Jones, Deputy Leader of the Council, with representation from each political group. The Interim A.D. of Finance (ICT & Business Transformation), the Democratic Services Manager and two ICT Services staff.
5. Currently there are 7 Members who have been equipped with a BlackBerry under the existing policy.
6. The ICT Working Group met on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 to discuss the action from Standards Committee. After a considered debate the ICT Working Group determined that there was insufficient reason to change the existing policy as agreed on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Subsequently the Members ICT Working Group recommends that BlackBerry devices continue to be provided if required to those Members who chose to use their own personal computer with a Broadband connection to the Council's network and that this device will provide a data only service.

**Finance**

7. The cost of provision of optional ICT equipment to Members is provided in the attached table of Equipment Provision.
8. An annual Members ICT budget of £15,000 is provided for refreshing ICT equipment as required.

### **Law**

9. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

### **Equality Impact**

10. This report takes account of the Council's Policies on Equality and Diversity.

### **Recommendations**

11. That the Standards Committee note the recommendation of the Members ICT Working Group and determine what recommendation it wishes to make to Council.



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## **Appendix 1**

### **Equipment Provision**

11. The following table shows the current ICT equipment options available to Members and their respective connection method(s) together

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Connection Method (Requirements)</b>	<b>Initial Equipment Costs</b>	<b>Ongoing Annual Charges</b>
Council Laptop**	3G Broadband* (USB wireless adaptor, Unlimited Data Tariff, 2 Year Contract)	£50	£276
Council PC**	ADSL Broadband Installation* (Router, BT Line, ADSL service, 1 Year Contract)	£500	£400
Council Blackberry (Data only, <u>no voice</u> service)	Wireless via Vodafone network (Device, installation, licence)	£340	£207
Non DMBC PC or Laptop***	Via the "Citrix Web Portal" utilising the Members personal Internet connection (MS Terminal Server Client Access Licence, RSA Token)	£37	£33

with the associated costs:-

\* Members will not be permitted to change to an alternative method of connection whilst still within the initial contract period.

\*\* Excludes laptop hardware/software costs (£1100 approx) and annual support & maintenance (£200).

\*\*\* Excludes MS Exchange CAL & MS Office licences which would be required if the Member does not already possess them