

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Finance and Information Technology Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>31 August 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Licences for Data Centre Hosting - Caird Data Centre</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Outline updated proposals for licensing the use of managed space in the Caird Data Centre.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Head of Information Technology, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, is authorised to agree the terms of licences for the use of space in Caird Data Centre based on the licences already awarded
- (2) that powers be delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) to award and sign all future licences for the use of space in Caird Data Centre.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Caird Data Centre was custom built for Strathclyde Regional Council and was officially opened in 1990. It was designed to house the large mainframe computers supporting Council Tax and other Regional systems. The Data Centre, and its mainframe computer, was transferred to the Council as part of the disaggregation of assets that took place at the time of local government reorganisation in Scotland in 1996. The mainframe was maintained by the Council until such time as all the successor authorities to Strathclyde Region migrated their council tax systems to local systems. The mainframe was decommissioned in 1997.
- 3.2. The Data Centre is critical to the Council's service delivery. It provides the production environment that supports the Council's business critical applications. No significant applications are operated by Resources, other than SEEMIS for Education, outside of this environment.
- 3.3. Over the last few years, the Council has invested significant resources to keep the facility up to date, maintainable and relevant as a modern facility that can provide a range of IT services.
- 3.4. With the dramatic changes in computer technology that have taken place over recent years the Council finds itself with excess space capacity. As such the Data Centre represents a significant publicly owned asset with relatively low utilisation of space.

Opportunities were identified to make use of the excess capacity at Caird in return for an income. This approach to “renting” the space and providing security, power and cooling is known as hosting. This hosting service is delivered under a licence agreement that has been developed with and agreed by Legal Services.

3.5. Organisations who have signed a licence agreement include Scottish Government (ISIS), University of the West of Scotland and West Lothian Council. The income realised from hosting in Caird is currently £334,950 per annum.

3.6. The Strategy for Shared and Hosted Services was developed from this foundation.

#### **4. Future Licences**

4.1. The University of West of Scotland licence was for an initial term of 3 years plus an optional 1 year extension and commenced on 1 December 2007. They have now indicated that they would prefer to agree a new licence for a longer term rather than exercise the 1 year extension.

4.2. It is proposed that the Head of Information Technology, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, should agree the terms of future licences for the use of space within the Caird Data Centre based on the licences already awarded.

4.3. It is also proposed that powers are delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) to sign all future licences.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

5.1. None

#### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1. None

#### **7. Other Implications**

7.1. The main risks associated with hosting in the data centre are already managed to ensure the continued delivery of service for Council Resources. Providing space for customers external to the Council does bring some additional exposure but this is managed via a programme of operational and account management meetings.

#### **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

8.2. Legal Services have been consulted. No further consultation was required.

**Linda Hardie**

**Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources)**

6 August 2010

#### **Link(s) to Council Values and Objectives**

◆ Accountable, effective and efficient

**Previous References**

None

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Strategy for Shared and Hosted Services

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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