

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 August 2018

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Provision of Mobile Phones to Councillors

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Executive Summary

This report presents a proposal for a revised mobile phone offer for councillors, providing four options enabling individual members to choose the device or arrangement that best suits their requirements.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the proposals set out in the report for the future provision of mobile phones to councillors.

Background and Advice

At present, all councillors are provided with a Vodafone Prime smartphone by the council to facilitate council business. This device was recommended by a cross-party working group prior to the last county council elections in May 2017.

However, in response to councillor feedback, and to reflect differing requirements of individual councillors, officers working with BT Lancashire Services have undertaken work to improve the offer. It is proposed that all councillors will now be offered the choice of one of four options:

- Android phone
- iPhone
- Basic phone
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Summary of options:

- **Android; Vodafone Prime** – The existing device. Councillors would need to take no action, just continue with their current mobile device. There would be no cost implications. For information, the cost of a Vodafone Prime N8 (the current model available in from BT Lancashire Services) is £100 per device.
- **iPhone** – Councillors could swap to an iPhone. The iPhone 7 costs £455 per device, and this cost would be partially offset, as the Council will re-use the current device. There is no access to the mod.gov app via an iPhone.
- **Basic; Mobiwire Aponi** – A phone and text only device, with no access to internet, or email. A device for councillors who access emails via other devices, and just want to be able to take and make calls, and send texts. Costs £30, and councillors would need to return their Prime for re-use.
- **Bring Your Own Device ("BYOD")** - Councillors can choose to use their own phone, and have Airwatch (access to county council email and intranet) installed. There would be no upfront costs to the authority, but it is proposed that an extra £5 per month ICT subsidy be provided to councillors to cover costs on personal devices, as it is likely there will be higher costs of the councillors' personal contracts. This would be offset by the saving in contract costs to the council. Again, councillors would be required to hand back their Prime for re-use.

(Note that the above devices constitute the proposed offer. However, individual models of mobile device regularly move out of production and are replaced by newer models. Therefore, the actual model offered in future may change, although it will be of an equivalent standard and cost.)

Support will be provided to members setting out the detailed pros and cons to help them choose, although the decision will be up to the individual councillor. Councillors who opt to change will also be offered initial training on using their new device if required.

There are no differences in monthly contract costs (£5 per device) between the Prime and iPhone. The Mobiwire is cheaper (£2.50 per device) as it does not have a data (internet) component.

Consultations

The options have been discussed with BT Lancashire Services to ensure they are technically viable and can be supported through the ICT helpdesk.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Councillors need to be provided with appropriate facilities to enable them to do their job. This revised offer will ensure that this is the case.

Financial

The total additional cost will depend on the individual choices of councillors. The maximum additional total cost to the authority would be c£38,000, although this cost would only be incurred if all councillors opted for an iPhone.

Even in this case, the cost will be partially offset by re-using the Prime devices that are returned, reducing the overall costs by up to £8,400. Additionally, as a gesture of goodwill to support the Council with the cost of these devices, BT Lancashire Services have offered a contribution towards the costs of up to £3,000.

The offer of an additional £5 per month ICT subsidy for councillors choosing Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) will be offset by the reduced contract costs incurred by the authority.

The costs outlined above will be met from the Members budget provision for ICT that is held within revenue reserves.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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