

FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

28TH JANUARY 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION IT INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

ABSTRACT

This report recommends the allocation of funds from the Information Technology Repairs and Renewals Funds for the development of the IT infrastructure in accordance with the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department's IT development plan.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee is recommended to approve the allocation of £13,100 from the IT Repairs and Renewals Fund towards the total cost of upgrading equipment within the Department of Environmental and Consumer Protection.

2. BACKGROUND

From the inception of the Council, the Environmental & Consumer Protection Department has made a commitment to progress use of the 'Flare' software system across the various services of the Department. The system has proved vital for the programming and maintenance of data in connection with the department's Statutory duties and in connection with customer related functions including the management of requests, complaints and enquiries.

3. CURRENT POSITION

The 'Flare' software system is now fully in place in both the Environmental Health Service and the Trading Standards Service. 'Flare' is also now in use by the Waste Management Service, mainly for the management of customer requests and enquiries received at the Department's main offices and for the collating of management information. To maximise on this investment in this particular software, and as a consequence of recently approved restructuring within Environmental & Consumer Protection, the Department have a need to expand the number of users and consequently the hardware to operate the system on a wider basis, particularly in Waste Management.

4. PROPOSED ACTION

The proposal is to allocate sufficient funds to provide a server, 13 replacement PCs and communications upgrade to Gravesend to enable the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department to meet the day to day demands of its operation using the technologies available.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of the IT equipment renewal is £23,100. The Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection has confirmed that £10,000 of this cost can be contained

within current departmental revenue resources. The shortfall of £13,100 can be contained current balances in the IT Repairs and Renewals Fund.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS

There are no direct human rights implications arising from this report.

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive and Directors of Finance and Law an Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

A Greenhill
Director of Information Technology

S Heggie
**Director of Environmental &
Consumer Protection**

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.