

ANGUS COUNCIL

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY COMMITTEE
FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

11 MARCH 1999
16 MARCH 1999

SUBJECT: THIN CLIENT TECHNOLOGY SERVER

JOINT REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT AND DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Abstract: This report seeks authority to purchase a file server and associated training for improved access to current Uniform property based system processing Building Warrants and Planning Applications and future development of a corporate geographic information system.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agree that the Director of Planning & Transport in consultation with the Director of Information Technology be authorised to purchase a server utilising Thin Client Technology at a cost of £70,000.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Over the last year the Planning & Transport Department have upgraded the Computer System which handles processing of Building Warrants and Planning Applications. This new version of the software interfaces to a Geographic Information System and integrates the Building Control and Planning Application records.
- 2.2 The previous system (Ludhouse) was located on an NCR Unix server. Investigation has been in hand with the Director of Information Technology to establish the most appropriate specification for a replacement server to house the Uniform System and most appropriately the Property Database and Geographic Information System which are both seen as potential corporate resources.
- 2.3 The most appropriate solution is a technology known as Thin Client Technology. Basically this server will hold all the software and data and will undertake all the processing. The traffic between the server and the individual PC's is therefore much smaller than the current arrangement which is continuously transferring very large graphic (map) files over the network. The introduction of the new technology would allow the facilities of the new system to be extended to include Transport Section of Planning & Transport Department at Kirriemuir Road. The technology will also facilitate the use of the GIS system as a corporate resource in the future.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the purchase and installation of the hardware together with the software licences for the new server will be £50,000 (£20,000 hardware, £25,000 software and £5,000 consultancy).

- 3.2 In addition training for Information Technology Department staff in both Arc View and Thin Client Technology installation and maintenance and for Planning & Transport Department staff in Arc View would require an additional £20,000.
- 3.3 Part of the cost (£40,000) can be contained within the Planning & Transport Revenue Budget 1998/99 with the remainder being covered by the Information Technology Renewal and Repair Fund. It is proposed that the Planning & Transport contribution be by means of virement from various budget heads within Supplies and Services, Premises and Third Party Payments.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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.

AA/MTS/KW
3 March 1999

Alex Anderson
Director of Planning and Transport

Andy Greenhill
Director of Information Technology