WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ALTAIR IT HARDWARE

1.   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1   This report details the procurement of replacement computer hardware in relation to the Pensions Administration IT system (called 'altair').

2.   BACKGROUND

2.1   As agreed on 14 February 2009, the provider for the Pensions Administration IT system is Heywood on a five year contract from 1 January 2010.

2.2   Procurement of the Pensions Administration IT system took place under the advice of the Procurement Team as a Restricted Tender Procedure in line with European Union procedures.

2.3   The contract includes the managed migration from the current IT system of AXISe to the new system from Heywood called 'altair' by 2011.

2.4   In adopting 'altair' as the strategic platform for Pensions Administration, a review and appropriate replacement of the current IT hardware provision is required.

3.   **PC REPLACEMENTS**

3.1   Implementation of the 'altair' IT system necessitates the replacement of 67 computers. Current computers are six years old and are scheduled for replacement in 2010.

3.2   All hardware is to be purchased and installed by Wirral IT Services within the agreed IT strategy.

4.   **SERVER HARDWARE**

4.1   Implementation of 'altair' requires the purchase of new servers to replace the existing server infrastructure in use at the Pension Fund.

4.2   The main server will be IBM equipment running the Oracle database software. This will be procured by inviting specialist resellers to submit quotations in line with Corporate Procurement guidance.

4.3 There are two Windows support servers required to complete the infrastructure for implementing 'altair'. These will be purchased and installed by Wirral IT Services within the agreed IT strategy.

4.4 All data will be stored within the Storage Area Network (SAN) and will form part of the overall strategic plan for IT systems with regard to system availability, backups and disaster recovery.

4.5 In regards to disaster recovery and business continuity at an appropriate future date there will be the need to make further arrangements for a 'mirrored' server environment for the 'altair' environment. This will provide the opportunity to allow approximately 10 users access to the Pensions Administration system in a disaster or main system failure.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The estimated cost for replacement PCs is £50,943. A lease arrangement for this PC equipment over a four year period will present the opportunity to place hardware into a revenue stream at an annual cost of **£13,500**.

5.2 The IBM server has an estimated capital cost of **£25,500**.

5.3 The required Windows support servers have an estimated capital cost of **£10,000**.

5.4 Provision for the costs outlined is contained within the existing budget.

6. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no staffing implications in this report.

7. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none rising directly from this report.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

10. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific implications for any Member or Ward.

11. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

12. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 No background papers were used in preparing this report.

14. RECOMMENDATION

14.1. That Members agree the procurement of IT hardware, at an estimated cost of **£35,500** and the ongoing lease charge over four years of approximately **£13,500**. Provision is contained within the existing budget.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

FNCE/167/10