METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 DECEMBER 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

SERVICE RE-ENGINEERING CORPORATE ICT UNIT

1   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1.   The Executive Board on 7 September 2006 agreed to a restructuring of the Corporate ICT unit to save £100,000. Service Re-Engineering savings are reported to the relevant overview and scrutiny committee for monitoring.

2   BACKGROUND

2.1   Cabinet of 1 December 2005 approved the creation of a Corporate ICT Unit at which time it was expected that the Unit would be created from September 2006, initially by a merger of WITS (Wirral IT Services, Finance) and TSS (Technical Support Service, Education and Cultural Services).

2.2   The service model approved is one in which all Council ICT staff are part of the central unit but are sited in departments as required to meet local demands and service local systems.

2.3   The merger commenced in April 2006 to coincide with the creation of the new Departments of Adult Social Services and Children and Young People and was widened to include the Technical Support Team of the former Social Services Department.

3   PROGRESS TO DATE

3.1   The ICT staff of WITS, TSS and the Technical Support Team were brought within common management with effect from 1 April 2006.

3.2.   For the time being, staff of TSS and the Technical Support Team have remained in their previous accommodation, largely with their previous functions and supporting the same clients.

3.3.   The remaining ICT Units, those of the Technical Services Department and the Wallasey Complex, should, subject to final discussion with the relevant departments, be incorporated into the Corporate ICT Unit before the end of 2006.

3.4   Staff have been meeting in technical groups to increase understanding of the services and explore avenues for integration.

3.5   Staff from the former Social Services Technical Support Team have been working in WITS to achieve better planning and execution of e-mail and Windows migration.

4   STRUCTURE

4.1   An initial staffing structure has been prepared for discussion with the Head of Human Resources.

4.2   The structure envisages the creation of a team to concentrate on school issues while other staff are amalgamated into existing teams.

4.3   The structure includes amendments to the previous WITS structure to take account of the changing requirements in support of 1Business and the extra duties and responsibilities that 1Business and the Corporate ICT Unit have imposed.

4.4   The structure anticipates that four members of staff, two from TSS and two from WITS will retire by 31 March 2007 at the latest and that an overall annual net saving of £100,000 will be achieved as a result.

4.5   Further changes to the structure will be made as integration develops and areas of duplication and overlap are eliminated.

5   FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5.1   The gross budget of the Corporate ICT Unit will be £12m which excludes the cost of departmental PC purchases met from departmental budgets and estimated at a further £1m.

5.2   A saving of £100,000 has been factored in to the Wirral IT Services budget from 2007-08, supported in 2006/ 07 by Bridging Finance.

5.3   The new unit will investigate further achievable economies through elimination of overlap and duplication and through adoption, Council wide, of best practice.

6   EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1   There are none arising directly from this report.

7   HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

7.1   There are none arising directly from this report.

8 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

10 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no particular implications for any Members or wards arising out of this report.

12 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That the Service Re-Engineering saving of £100,000 be noted.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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