

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 10</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>25 APRIL 2024</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)</b>	<b>OPEN:</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>JASON DHESI</b> <a href="mailto:jason.dhesi@southderbyshire.gov.uk">jason.dhesi@southderbyshire.gov.uk</a>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MRI SOFTWARE</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members approve the additional budgetary provision for year 2025 to 2026 of £70,000 to facilitate the extension of the current Housing ICT contracts.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 This Report outlines the need to align the contract lengths of the current ICT system to enable a single system to be procured for the service from 2026 onwards and seeks approval for the budgetary requirements.

## **4.0 Executive Summary**

- 4.1 The report seeks agreement to the extension of the term of the license agreements for the suite of MRI software modules to ensure they all end at the same time in 2026. This will provide for a specification to be drawn up and used for the re-tendering of the housing services core ICT systems to ensure they are fit for purpose and represent value for money.

## **5.0 Detail**

### ICT systems

- 5.1 The current ICT systems used in the Housing Service are predominantly based on MRI software, which is an acknowledged market leader in housing software solutions. The MRI software systems are being upgraded on an ongoing basis by the acquisition of additional specialist MRI software modules. However, in the absence of an overall 'road map' this process remains open ended with the potential to continue to acquire further modules with greater functionality without reference to the size and shape of the service and value for money that it needs to achieve. To overcome this the Housing Service needs to produce a specification of its needs, including the necessary integration and automation with the Council's corporate systems, which can be used to procure the tools its needs to deliver the services it requires from within the budgets available.

- 5.2 In order to ensure stability and resilience it is important the implementation of the systems already acquired is completed. Currently the repairs and maintenance module of MRI is being implemented with the system expected to go live later this year.
- 5.3 To facilitate the use of a specification to test the market and to regularise the procurement arrangements in the future, the various software licenses need to be aligned so that the specification referred to above can be used to properly test the market for an optimum software solution, the process for which can then be timed to coincide with the end of all the MRI licenses in 2026, Jigsaw and Orchard. To achieve this, it is intended that the two MRI modules contracts be extended beyond April 2025 for a further 12 months to align them with other software systems at an additional cost of approximately £70,000 plus any inflationary increases. This then allows the G-Cloud Framework to be used to procure a new Housing IT system for April 2026. It is considered that this timeframe will allow sufficient time to finish the implementation of the existing repairs software systems, give time for the completion of a software specification, procurement of the system and then implementation by April 2026.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The extension of the current MRI Mobile Working and Tenant Portal modules beyond March 2025 will require additional budgetary provision in the HRA of approximately £70,000 and is subject to the rate of inflation.
- 6.2 MRI is the HRA's core ICT system, budgets for all other modules currently used is provided for in the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 6.3 At present the budget position in the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan for 2025/26 is predicted to be a surplus balance of £347,000 this is subject to the impact from the Housing Services Review and the 30-year Business Plan.

## **7.0 Corporate Implications**

### **Employment Implications**

There are no direct employment implications contained in this report.

### **Legal Implications**

The proposed contract extensions are compliant with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

### **Corporate Plan Implications**

The content of this report directly contributes to the aims within the Council Plan.

### **Risk Impact**

The implementation of the actions dealt with in the report will assist in mitigating the risks associated with the performance of the Housing Service.

## **8.0 Community Impact**

There are no direct community impact implications contained in this report.

## **Equality and Diversity Impact**

There is no direct impact on any equality and diversity issues in this report.

## **Social Value Impact**

There is no direct impact on any social value issues within this report.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

There are no direct environmental sustainability impacts within this report.

## **9.0 Conclusions**

- 9.1 The current ICT system contracts need to be extended to enable the licence periods to be aligned, the requirements properly specified for the future and procured to allow for future market testing and therefore the additional budgetary provision is required.

## **10.0 Background Papers**