## REPORT

| |
|---|
| **SUBJECT:**      **SRS DATA HALL MOVE** |
| **MEETING:**      **Cabinet** |
| **DATE:**      **7<sup>th</sup> October 2020** |
| **DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All** |

## 1.    PURPOSE:

1.1    To submit for consideration the full business case for the SRS data centre and proposed data hall move from Blaenavon, replacing it initially with a move to a commercial scale purpose built data hall followed by cloud based solutions as appropriate.

## 2.    RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1    That Cabinet support the approach outlined in option 4 of the full business case to move to an alternative physical data centre solution.

2.2    That Next Generation Data (NGD) are agreed as being the single supplier as a result of the business case specification of requirements.

2.3    That Cabinet support the funding model predicated on equal costs of the shared infrastructure, and that recommendation is subsequently made to Council to consider the funding requirement be factored into the 2021/22 capital programme and as outlined in paragraph 7.7.

## 3.     KEY ISSUES:

3.1    As a result of two development sessions with the SRS Strategic Board in July 2019 a Tactical Plan was developed for the SRS and that serves as an annual guide to implement tactical SRS initiatives that incrementally achieve the Strategic Board's five-year partnership strategy as agreed in January 2016.  This strategy reflects a revitalised strategy for collaboration between SRS partner organisations.

3.2    The SRS Tactical Plan documents the SRS collaborative initiatives that the SRS plans to execute and includes the budgeted initiative costs and milestones for delivery.  The individual organisation projects are not typically included in the plan and are overseen and delivered separately.

3.3    The SRS Tactical Plan outlines existing programmes of work.  The gateway process adopted by the SRS Strategic Board allows it to consider, in conjunction with its Business & Collaboration and Finance & Governance Boards, collaborative programmes of work that partners wish to pursue.

3.4     In March 2020 Cabinet endorsed the SRS Tactical Plan which supports delivery of the long-term strategic goals of the SRS and its partners. The SRS Strategy 2020-26 was subsequently signed off at the July 21st 2020 Strategic Board and the shared aspirations in the strategy are to move towards cloud based provisions. This meant that a reduction in on premise capacity was now a certainty. With a decreasing need for an on premise data centre service and an increasing cost for providing on premise services in Blaenavon, it therefore becomes unaffordable to continue with the current model.

3.5     This report looks for Cabinet to consider the business case for the proposed move to a commercial data hall, resulting in the de-commissioning of the existing data halls in the SRS.   Cabinet are asked to confirm its support alongside the SRS Strategic Board to which the Council is an active member and local authority partner.

**Strategic Case**

3.6     The physical data centre in Blaenavon has been a positive asset to the SRS for ten years and in 2016 and 2017 with the introduction of Blaenau Gwent and Newport respectively to the SRS, two further facilities were added. All partner services delivered out of Blaenavon have been accredited, cost effective and secure for that period.

3.7     The world, more importantly technology, has moved on at pace in the last ten years and the SRS and its partners find themselves in a position where others can provide these services over public infrastructure using hyper scale implementations, more securely at a lower cost point.

3.8     The original purpose and thinking behind a single, secure, resilient and accredited facility still stands as the right thing to do, even today. However, in our initial outline assessments, the cost to maintain the existing facilities to the current standard is greater than the cost of consuming space in an alternative facility.

3.9     In the context of the business case, the phrase "on premise" refers to a set of services delivered from an infrastructure that is installed into a physical data centre or computer room that the SRS partners' own. The owned infrastructure is typically funded through capital replacement plans and the infrastructure bought is in place for five to seven years and then needs renewing.

3.10    The term "cloud" refers to a set of services delivered from a set of infrastructure that is remote to and provided to the SRS, for example Microsoft Azure, and the SRS would manage it in the same way as it does for the on premise infrastructure. The funding mechanism is however a revenue charge in relation to the actual usage and requires no capital investment.

3.11    The SRS Strategic Board direction is clear.  That the SRS and its partners will move from being predominantly "on premise" today to being predominantly "cloud" by 2026. Different services will transition at a different pace based on age, cost and complexity factors of the current applications and infrastructure that each partner has.

3.12    With the risk categorisation of the services currently delivered it is advised that partners should all move to a "safe harbour" first and then transition to cloud services. If there are services that can easily transition to cloud, as the SRS has done with Office 365, then those opportunities can and will be taken alongside this project.

3.13    In drawing up the specification for an alternative "on premise" data centre a full schedule of needs has been put together and they represent the standard that Blaenavon was built to, any changes or improvements to those standards over the last ten years and the network connectivity that we must have.

3.14    Torfaen County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Gwent Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner currently share the Blaenavon data centre and that within the data centre Torfaen County Borough Council and Monmouthshire County Council share the same "network", "storage" and "compute" infrastructure.

3.15    The data centre has four separate data halls within it. Each hall houses a different set of customers, typically due to historic reasons. Each of our five partners hosts organisational services from the data centre.

3.16    In terms of the role of the current facility the SRS has historically hosted the services it provides in the Blaenavon Data centre. The Blaenavon facility has an annual cost of operating and maintaining services, which is in part charged on a specific individual partner basis and other costs are shared between the four data halls.

3.17    This business case deals with the data halls 2 (Education and Local Authority), 3 (OPCC) and 4 (Local Authority and SRS Business Solutions) only as the capital funding for hall 1 is provided by NWIS.

3.18    The desired model is now one where all partner services are delivered from a new alternative location using as much shared infrastructure as possible.  There are multiple physical and cloud data centre locations available across the United Kingdom which the SRS could use as an alternative. However, the key requirement is that the SRS need a data centre to be an active node on the core PSBA network to provide the highest levels of performance for partners.

3.19    The SRS data centre halls are 10 years old and require many environmental components to be replaced, this includes items such as air conditioning, generators, battery backups and monitoring solutions. Without this investment there is a high risk of the data hall equipment failing due to the underlying environmental facilities. Due to failures in 2019, the company that support the equipment have reduced the useful life of the equipment remaining in the data centre which requires an approximate £2.6M spend over four years. The SRS's data centre support provider maintains risk assessments for the equipment and this continues to be monitored and acted upon as required.

**Economic Case**

3.20    In terms of business needs Technology infrastructure needs updating at regular intervals, networking typically lasts ten years, storage five years and servers three to five years.

3.21    Whichever route the SRS takes with alternative facilities or cloud provision in Microsoft Azure, there will still also need to be a PSBA network that provides external connectivity for partners.

3.22    Partners will always require PSBA connectivity and there is a project running nationally to replace end of life PSBA equipment. The proposal is to align this work with that and install

the replacement equipment into the new location. The costs of replacement equipment are factored into the business case.

3.23 Furthermore, whichever route the SRS takes with alternative facilities or cloud provision in Microsoft Azure, there will still need to be a core network that provides transit for all partners to access these services and a small amount of on premise infrastructure which enables access to cloud services. The SRS needs a new core network for all partners in 20-21 due to end of life equipment and it being over ten years older in the main. This cost is applicable whether the SRS stay in Blaenavon or not.

3.24 In terms of server capacity SRS will be driving as much of the capacity we need into Microsoft Azure where cost effective and Office 365. However, SRS will need to retain some on premise. The plan is to buy enough server equipment to enable the migration to commence to an alternative data centre and then lift and shift equipment and services where that existing equipment is still viable.

3.25 The challenge to partners would be to drive usage into Office 365 and after the transition of on-premise data centre locations look to adopt Microsoft Azure to reduce the on-premise server requirement needs and therefore reduce the future capital investment requirements for replacement server hardware.

3.26 The SRS needs new shared server capacity every year for all partners due to end of life equipment in one or more Authorities. This cost is applicable whether we stay in Blaenavon or not and this line item features heavily in the MTFP.

3.27 Alternative data centre rack space will be procured based on an initial assessment for each LA and although this does not currently take into account any future migration to Azure Cloud, the intention with the relocation is to reduce the current data centre rack footprint for each SRS Partner considerably. The estimated number of racks for Monmouthshire is 4 and follows successful virtualisation of servers that has been undertaken historically.

3.28 The business case has therefore considered the following future data centre options:

a) Option 1: Business as usual – SRS Data Halls operate without environmental facilities being replaced. The SRS would not support this option as it places the partners at considerable risk.

b) Option 2: Do minimum – Replace all environment facilities within SRS's Data Halls. Critical ones as soon as possible and the remainder within 5 years. This option continues with higher costs than are required but does meet the supportability. However, the Strategic Board also rejected this option as too high cost in January 2020 and this option does not meet the data centre specification put out as part of the tender process.

c) Option 3: Reduce to a single hall in Blaenavon - Replace all environment facilities within a single SRS Data Hall in Blaenavon. This option would still require similar work to shift to an alternative location and resilience would need to be given further consideration. Furthermore, and again, this does not meet the data centre specification. SRS conclude that moving to this option is not viable as fixed costs will remain even as data needs reduce over time.

d) Option 4: Move to an alternative data centre – this options offers all of the data centre requirements the SRS needs and delivers at a reduced overall cost compared to the current provision.

Option 4 is the recommended option.

**Commercial Case**

3.29 The procurement of an alternative physical data centre was discussed with its SRS support services provider and the initial advice was to put a specification together and go to market with that specification to see what was available.

3.30 During that market testing, it became apparent that there is only one option that the SRS can move to due to the specification requiring a data centre that has the core PSBA network within it. The Head of the PSBA for Welsh Government confirmed that the only data centre that has this capability is the Next Generation Data Centre (NGD) based in Newport.

3.31 However, there still needed to be a proper process for assessing value for money and fitness for purpose. The SRS provided the data centre specification to the provider and it has been confirmed that the location more than meets all of the criteria in the specification.

3.32 The SRS recognised a single option is not competitive when seeking a value for money comparison and therefore a cost was requested from an alternative and comparable provider. The equivalent pricing was over double the cost from NGD which provides us with assurance that we are receiving value for money. In addition, we know that SRS Business Solutions, the trading arm of SRS, is charging a higher cost to its current customer base than we will be paying to NGD for our services. This again provides assurance as this was a market test carried out.

3.33 There are also costs associated with the restoration of the existing facility used in Blaenavon and such that it is put back to its original state as per the original agreement to occupy with Torfaen County Borough Council. This is estimated based on initial quotes at £610,000 but is seen very much as a worst case. Such costs are to be shared equally by OPCC, Torfaen and Monmouthshire as the primary users of the facility and have been present for the full ten years.

**Management Case**

3.34 The timelines for delivery to the new alternative location differs for each partner based on the information currently available and on the basis of decisions to proceed with the recommended option being secured by all partner organisations in the coming weeks. Monmouthshire and Torfaen plan to migrate to NGD at the end of the financial year. With Blaenau Gwent migrating at the end of Q1 of the next financial year and Newport the end of Q3. The migration of the OPCC is anticipated be at the beginning of 2022/23.

3.35 The main benefits of the move to NGD are contained within the body of report and a move to NGD would provide resilience and delivery risk would be with a major reputable data centre provider.

3.36 Equally the main risks are outlined and centre significantly around the environmental facilities needing to be replaced in Blaenavon. There will be some limited issues around

availability and performance during the migration period for a short period. COVID may also pose a degree of risk in terms of exchange rate movements affecting pricing, social distancing requirements needing to be maintained during the migration and risks around supply chains.

3.37    All other constraints and dependencies have been assessed and responded to in the development and resourcing of the business case being implemented.

3.38    Clearly the proposed move to NGD and an alternative data centre location reduces operating costs, removes the need for additional capital investment that would otherwise be required in Blaenavon and the programme delivery plan looks to minimise disruption to the partners and the running costs of having two data centres running during transition.

3.39    In parallel with the proposal to locate to an alternative physical data centre MCC continues to work with the SRS to assess which of our systems and processes can move from physical storage to Azure Cloud storage or other SAAS cloud solution. This will enable Monmouthshire to meet their strategic aim of moving all of our systems to Cloud.

3.40    It is worth clarifying that again schools will not feature in this initial move and as a result of the significant Welsh Government EdTech funding that is being programmed into schools this year and that will divert available SRS resources. This delay presents an opportunity in that it will allow a full review and options appraisal to be undertaken of school data being moved from the data halls in Blaenavon and into the Cloud on the Welsh Government supported Hwb teaching and learning platform. Again a business case will be developed and presented back to the SRS Strategic Board for consideration and Monmouthshire schools will be engaged and involved throughout.

3.41    Cabinet are being asked to consider the report and such that recommendation can subsequently be made to Council for consideration at its meeting on 22nd October 2020 and given that such a move will give rise to additional capital investment.

## 4.    OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

4.1    Beyond the options appraisal described above the SRS had investigated potential solutions that included:

a)    Move the data hall to a more sustainable and economic data hall facility

b)    Move all of our systems into the Azure cloud or other SAAS solution.

c)    A hybrid model of the above two options, with a complete move to an alternative data hall prior followed by a phased migration to the Azure cloud or other SAAS solution.

4.2    The recommendation made was to pursue a hybrid option and which affords greatest flexibility and affordability considerations.

## 5.    EVALUATION CRITERIA:

5.1 An evaluation assessment has been included at Appendix 1 for future evaluation of whether the decision has been successfully implemented. The decision will be reviewed after 12 months and on an ongoing basis.

## 6. REASONS:

6.1 The SRS data centre in Blaenavon is unsustainable and the SRS Strategic Board have presented a business case for consideration that recommends the existing data hall being decommissioned and replaced with alternative more economically viable solutions. This requires the formal consent of all SRS partner organisations.

6.2 Adopting this approach will meet Monmouthshire's and the SRS cloud first strategy.

6.3 Continuing to move cloud services such as Azure will provide additional resilience, security, scalability and capacity management.

## 7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 The table below shows the running costs of the data halls for the three options explored and outlined in paragraph 3.28. These being the current model (do minimum), collapsing all partners into one data hall and moving to an alternative data centre provider (NGD).

| Impact to Revenue Costs | Existing | One Hall | NGD LAs | OPCC | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rack Charges | 0 | 0 | 190,656 | 105,920 | 296,576 |
| Maintenance & Support Contracts | 401,362 | 183,000 | 103,000 | 80,000 | 183,000 |
| BG & NCC Computer Rooms** | 105,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Shared Building Costs | 870,261 | 536,857 | 256,857 | 81,026 | 337,609 |
| Income | (260,800) | | | | |
| **SRS Controllable Revenue Costs** | 1,115,823 | 719,857 | 550,239 | 266,946 | 817,185 |
| Adjust for loss of NWIS income* | 206,980 | 0 | - | | 0 |
| **Adjusted SRS Revenue Costs** | 1,322,803 | 719,857 | 550,239 | 266,946 | 817,185 |

*NWIS income will drop out in 21/22

** not part of the SRS budget

7.2 The move to NGD would be implemented on a phased approach and is expected to take three financial years running from 2021/22 through to 2023/24. Racks will be required at NGD before the Data Halls are fully decommissioned, it is anticipated 15 racks will be required initially rising to 28 by 2023/23 with no racks remaining at Blaenavon.

These additional costs will need to be managed and offset by the savings made in the running costs at Blaenavon. The following table shows the costs of the racks required at NGD offset by the savings from the Data Halls at Blaenavon as the project progresses:

| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NGD COSTS (new racks etc.) | 291,022 | 203,755 | 367,907 |
| DATA HALL (savings) | (309,598) | (303,038) | (303,038) |
| | (18,576) | (99,283) | 64,869 |

7.3 In terms of one-off costs the refresh of equipment is required regardless of any potential move to a new data centre facility. The following table captures the capital investment required of each option.

| ONE OFF COSTS Capital Costs | Existing | One Hall | LAs | NGD OPCC | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Data Centre Infrastructure | 2,685,678 | 734,000 | - | - | - |
| PSBA - replacement equipment | - | - | 65,868 | 49,781 | 115,649 |
| Shared Network | 487,000 | 487,000 | 314,000 | 173,000 | 487,000 |
| Shared Wifi | 142,500 | 142,500 | 85,500 | 57,000 | 142,500 |
| Shared Firewall | 458,022 | 458,022 | 277,322 | 180,700 | 458,022 |
| Shared Storage | 900,000 | 900,000 | 600,000 | 300,000 | 900,000 |
| Computing | 150,000 | 150,000 | 100,000 | 50,000 | 150,000 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL COST | 4,823,200 | 2,871,522 | 1,442,690 | 810,481 | 2,253,171 |
| Cost of Change | | | | | |
| Decommission Costs (Ty Cyd 1) | 0 | 457,500 | 406,667 | 203,333 | 610,000 |

7.4 The equipment required has an expected life of between five and ten years, it would be prudent for partners to build up a capital reserve to fund the future replacement to mitigate substantial Capital outlay. To cover the next 15 years of refresh the partners would need to allocate £397,000 to the capital reserve. The authority's share of this would be £61,000 per annum. It is proposed that this is incorporated into the MTFP and budget process for 2021/22 such that adequate base budget provision can be set aside for capital refresh of equipment and to avoid significant one-off pressures occurring at the end of equipment life cycle.

7.5 The core assumptions and risks are contained in the business case and have been reviewed by the SRS Finance & Governance Board, onto which each of the Local Authority partner's S151 officers are represented. All have confirmed they are content that such assumptions are reasonable and that risks are understood and where possible suitably mitigated.

7.6 As can be seen above the capital investment required to relocate to NGD is far less than required to remain in the existing Data Halls. Partners will be required to fund £2.3million

to move as opposed to £4.8million to remain as the current model with the original three partners sharing the estimated £610,000 (worst case scenario) decommissioning costs.

7.7   The Council's share in the £2.3m up front capital investment is £361k and together with the 1/3 share of decommissioning costs (£203k) recommendation will be made to Council to fund this as part of the 2021/22 capital budget proposals.

7.8   For MCC specifically this translates into anticipated net revenue savings of £28k (see appendix 4) and when compared to the anticipated contribution by MCC for 2021/22. These savings will contribute to draft budget proposals for 2020/21.

7.9   Finally it is important to note that whilst there is additional investment being required to implement this proposal there is significant cost avoidance that otherwise would need to be incurred.  The level of cost avoidance over and above the Council's proposed investment is £334k.

## 8.   WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

8.1   The significant and positive equality impacts identified in the assessment are summarised below for members' consideration:

a)   Cloud services will enable communities to engage and transact with the council more easily, economically and with a lesser impact on the environment;

b)   The safe sharing of digital data with police and health colleagues will enable a more joined-up approach to care of vulnerable people in our communities

8.2   The actual impacts from this report's recommendations will be reviewed every year.

## 9.   CONSULTEES:

SRS Strategic Board
SRS Finance & Governance Board
SRS Senior Leadership Team
MCC Strategic Leadership Team
Cabinet

## 10.   BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Evaluation Criteria
Appendix 2 – Wellbeing of Future Generations Assessment
Appendix 3 – SRS Data Centre Business Case
Appendix 4 – MCC savings and investment requirement summary

## 11.   AUTHOR: Chief Officer for Resources (acting S151 officer)

## 12.   CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel:    01633 644294 / 07398 954828
Email:  peterdavies@monmouthshire.gov.uk

# Appendix 1

## Evaluation Criteria

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|---:|:---|
| **Title of Report:** | **SRS DATA HALL MOVE** |
| **Date decision was made:** | **7th October 2020** |
| **Report Author:** | **Peter Davies** |

| **What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet?** |
|:---|
| The decision will endorse the SRS data hall move the decision of the SRS Strategic Board to instigate a complete move of the data hall provision at Blaenavon to an alternative data hall prior; followed by a phased migration to the Azure cloud or other SAAS solutions.<br><br>It is proposed that there is an ongoing 12 monthly appraisal and evaluation to ensure the desired outcomes have been achieved and that benefits and any savings have been realised?  This will form part of the budget monitoring and budget setting process for the SRS and facilitated through the SRS Finance and Governance board, upon which the Council's Chief Officer for Resources is a standing member. |

| **What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?** |
|:---|
| A 12 month appraisal and evaluation will be undertaken and that will also look to identify further and future opportunities to optimize data storage needs and to source the most appropriate and cost effective data storage solutions.  The outcomes, benefits and savings to be realised will be closely monitored and through ongoing budget and performance monitoring arrangements. |

| **What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?** |
|:---|
| Give an overview of the planned costs associated with the project, which should already be included in the report, so that once the evaluation is completed there is a quick overview of whether it was delivered on budget or if the desired level of savings was achieved. |
| This proposal translates into anticipated revenue savings of £28k for 21/22.  The Council's share in the £2.3m up front capital investment is £361k and together with the 1/3 share of decommissioning costs (£203k) recommendation will be made to fund this as part of the 21/22 capital budget proposals. |

**Appendix 2**

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<tr>
<td colspan="2">**monmouthshire sir fynwy**</td>
<td colspan="2">**Future Generations Evaluation**<br>**(Includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)**</td>
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<table>
<tr>
<td colspan="2">**Name of the Officer** completing the evaluation<br>Peter Davies<br><br>**Phone no: 07398 954828**<br>**E-mail: peterdavies@monmouthshire.gov.uk**</td>
<td colspan="2">**Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal**<br>To agree the proposal to move the SRS data hall from Blaenavon to NGD.</td>
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<tr>
<td colspan="2">**Name of Service**<br>Digital & Agile</td>
<td colspan="2">**Date Future Generations Evaluation** form completed 28/09/2020</td>
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1.    **Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

| Well Being Goal | How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative) | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|
| **A prosperous Wales**<br>Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs | The move to a cloud based provision has significant benefits to our workforce and the wider community. These solutions mean that access to information and services can be available when the public need to use them, as well as improving the digital teaching and learning facilities in schools. | |
| **A resilient Wales**<br>Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change) | We would expect an alternative data hall would operate through 100% renewable technology, with infrastructure that uses half as much energy as the provision at the SRS. Cloud based services can significantly improve efficiency with self-service and a reduction in the need to travel. | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| **A healthier Wales**<br>People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood | | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |

| Well Being Goal | How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative) | What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|
| **A Wales of cohesive communities** Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected | Cloud based technology enables greater connectivity within our communities, as well as protecting peoples data and therefore the safeguarding of vulnerable people. | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| **A globally responsible Wales** Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing | Cloud infrastructure enables an efficient, economic service which reduces the negative impact on our environment of travel. | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach |
| **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language** Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected.  People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation | Digital information and services are being improved across our cultural and leisure services, enabling electronic transactions through cloud based systems | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| **A more equal Wales** People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances | Cloud will assist people with protected characteristics to access information and services in our rural community. They will also provide better employment opportunities for people working in digital industries. | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |

2.    **How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?**

| Sustainable Development Principle | | How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? | What has been done to better to meet this principle? |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future | The digital world is moving at pace and is the future of everything we do. This proposal will ensure we reap the benefits of digitisation to capture short term economic and efficiency benefits as well as support investments in emerging and innovative technologies to reap the long term benefits globally, for our local communities and the Council. | |
|  | Working together with other partners to deliver objectives | MCC will work in collaboration with its partners in the SRS to deliver this proposal. Our partners also include Welsh Government and existing technology suppliers. | |
|  | Involving those with an interest and seeking their views | Our main stakeholders are the other partners in the SRS and our internal service departments who will need to be aware of this decision when managing their current systems and the eventual move to cloud. We also have wider stakeholders in supporting central government policy decisions for the move to cloud based services. All stakeholders will have active involvement. | |

| Sustainable Development Principle | | How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? | What has been done to better to meet this principle? |
|---|---|---|---|
|  Prevention | Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse | This move will absolutely prevent problems getting worse as it's the most sustainable, future ready solution for supporting ICT infrastructure. | |
|  Integration | Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three | Cloud based services enable economies to be made, reduces the environmental impacts of travel, increases communications and access to information, and eases engagement with our communities. | |

3. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** *Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.*

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Age* | Cloud services will assist the elderly to access information and services in more sustainable way without having to leave the house. Younger people will be expecting all services to be digital by design and move to cloud will be their norm. Government services can share health, housing and care information for the elderly, enhancing the quality of care. | No impact | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| *Disability* | Cloud technology will assist people with mobility problems to access information and services. | No impact | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| Gender reassignment | No impact | No impact | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| Marriage or civil partnership | No impact | No impact | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| Race | No impact | No impact | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |

| Protected Characteristics | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic | What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Religion or Belief | No impact | No impact | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| Sex | No impact | No impact | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| Sexual Orientation | No impact | No impact | Where any negative impacts are identified the team will seek to address them by taking an inclusive approach. |
| Welsh Language | No impact | No impact | The Welsh language will continue to be promoted by the Digital Service through all digitally published material. |

4.  **Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities?**

| | Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting | Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting | What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Safeguarding | The provision of cloud based apps will enable our social care services to have real time, structured data and information to protect our vulnerable adults and children. | The purpose of this arrangement is to be inclusive to all therefore no negative impacts are anticipated in relation to this particular group. | We will continue to develop cloud services in order to provide accurate information to carers and families, even in people's homes, to assist with speedier service provision and assessment of needs. Security of data will be enabled by simple electronic security on mobile devices and apps. |
| Corporate Parenting | | | |

5.  **What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

There is industry wide evidence that cloud services improve security of data, access to information and enable better data analysis and management.

6. **SUMMARY:  As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?**

> i. Cloud services will enable communities to engage and transact with the council more easily, economically and with a lesser impact on the environment
> ii. The safe sharing of digital data with police and health colleagues will enable a more joined-up approach to care of vulnerable people in our communities

7. **Actions. As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.**

| What are you going to do | When are you going to do it? | Who is responsible | Progress |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

8. **Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.**

| The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on: | 07/10/21 |
|---|---|