

Cabinet

9 NOVEMBER 2009

LEADER

*Councillor Stephen
Greenhalgh*

CORPORATE NETWORK STRATEGY

**Wards
All**

Significant parts of the existing corporate data network have been in service for over nine years and critical components have reached the end of their life. From May 2010 the products become unserviceable and will need to be replaced. There is also a need to remove the network hub from Stowe Road Depot prior to its sale.

Information about costings and sensitive technical aspects of the proposals are in a separate report on the exempt part of the Cabinet agenda.

CONTRIBUTORS

DFCS
ADLDS
David Green
H&F Bridge
Partnership

Recommendation:

That the Council commissions H&F Bridge Partnership (HFBP) to de-commission the affected components and install new equipment and services to both modernise the infrastructure and make it fit for purpose for at least a further five years, in accordance with the proposals set out in the separate report on the exempt part of the agenda.

HAS A PEIA BEEN COMPLETED? YES
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. HFBP operates a voice and data network on behalf of H&F which provides the core infrastructure on top of which the Council operates the rest of its IT systems. This network extends from the East London Data Centre and HTH and radiates out to over 60 sites around the borough and is illustrated in the attached diagram (see Appendix 1).
- 1.2. The last round of significant investment in the corporate network took place in 2000 with the installation of the ATM based data, voice and video network.
- 1.3. Additional investment has taken place since to build a fast data network (Gigabit Ethernet fibre ring) around the King Street area but the bulk of the network shown in **dark shade** on the diagram still relies on the old infrastructure.
- 1.4. HFBP has recently been advised that as of June 2009 support for critical components in the current network (ATM) is being withdrawn by our system maintainers. This equipment has reached the end of its life and whilst they have offered to provide a hardware replacement service for a further year the affected components must be replaced by June 2010 if HFBP is going to be able to offer network support to H&F in the future.
- 1.5. This has a significant business impact, should a network incident occur after June 2010 and the cause be an old network (ATM) component, HFBP may not be able to restore services to a significant number of users.
- 1.6. The area affected encompasses many of the major strategic sites (nodes) on the current network including Hammersmith Town Hall (HTH), Fulham Town Hall (FTH), Bagleys Lane and the Stowe Road depot and their network connected satellite locations.
- 1.7. In a major network incident, whilst major applications will still be available in the data centres they will not be accessible by staff across the borough affecting the delivery of front line services and consequently impacting residents.
- 1.8. In a worst case scenario restoration of the service could take several months during which time new data links and equipment would need to be purchased, deployed, configured and tested before users would be back on line.
- 1.9. Should this paper not be agreed in November then from May 2010 the Council may suffer more and longer outages of the type experienced in August 2009.

2. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1. The existing network is built from a series of point to point connections using a collection of private fibres, BT circuits, microwave dishes and laser links. This is centrally managed and operated by HFBP, it deploys a number of different networking technologies and has a number of single points of failure, in

particular HTH which is the core hub from which most of the other network sites radiate.

- 2.2. A major loss of service at HTH is of serious concern and a new design is needed to meet the Business Continuity requirements of the council.
- 2.3. Whilst work has been undertaken and is continuing to develop the infrastructure in the data centres it is imperative that this strengthening of the IT service is also built out into the rest of the network.
- 2.4. To ensure users have access to their data even in the event of a major failure there needs to be a method of providing connectivity to both data centres from all major sites regardless of location and no central dependency on one site.
- 2.5. The current arrangement also inhibits the development of the Corporate Accommodation Strategy which prevents the council being able to easily dispose of major sites, like Stowe Road depot (which has been subject of much interest), which are being used as a network communication hub.
- 2.6. The proposition in this paper will cover this requirement. If the works are completed within the stated timescale then the Stowe Road site will be empty of all communications equipment by the end of April 2010.
- 2.7. Any delays in acceptance of this paper will impact this requirement and could impact both the potential sale and ultimately the revenue such a disposal could generate.

3. STRATEGIC OPTIONS

- 3.1. These are set out in the separate report on the exempt part of the Cabinet agenda.

4. TIMESCALE

- 4.1. The implementation is driven by the need to de-commission the old ATM network prior to the end of service date of June 2010 and facilitate the sale of the Stowe Road depot ready for the new owner to take over the site from the end of April 2010.
- 4.2. The project, subject to approval, would be started on the 1 December 2009 and completed within six months, the old infrastructure being de-commissioned before the current maintenance agreement lapses and the old ATM network becomes unsupportable.

5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1. It is recommended the Council enters into an agreement with HFBP to replace the existing Corporate ATM Network from November 2009. Costs are detailed in the report on the exempt part of the agenda.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 6.1. These are in the separate report on the exempt part of the agenda.

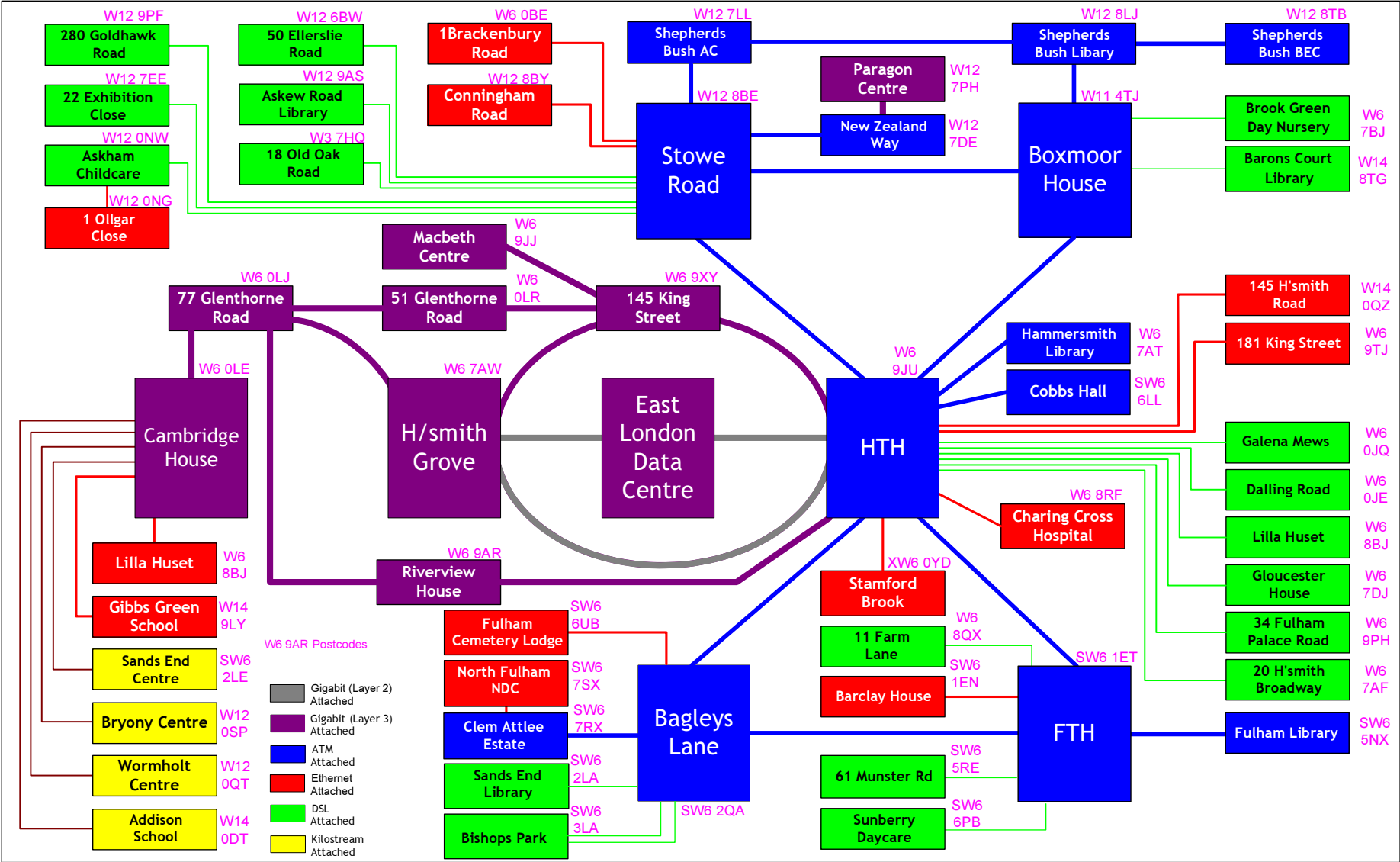
7. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications. The works will be procured through the council's existing arrangements with H&F Bridge Partnership.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Retirement of Corporate ATM Network Solution Proposal.	Jackie Hudson ext 2946	FCS 2 nd floor TH

CONTACT OFFICER:	NAME: Jackie Hudson EXT:2946
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Drawn	Checked	Issue	Date	Remarks
DEG		20	18/07/08	Remove 11 Farm Lane & add 1 Brackenbury Road
DEG		21	01/10/08	Major redraw inc. removal of 275KS & Sawley Road, added Data Centre
DEG		22	20/10/08	Removed Irish Centre, 55 Blythe Rd, added Exhibition Way
DEG		23	27/10/08	Removed 164 King Street
DEG		24	20/05/09	Removed Stamford Hse, 363 & 274 N End Road; added 2 nd link Bishop's Park

H & F Bridge Partnership - Network Services	
TITLE	HFBP Internal Network Overview
Drawing Number:	OVR-COR-INT-001
File Reference:	HFBP-ALL-WORK\Technical\NETWORKS\Schematics\overviews