

Agenda Item No: **Report No:**
Report Title: **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Section**
Report To: **Cabinet** **Date: 11 September 2007**
Lead Councillor: **Cllr J Freeman**
Ward(s) Affected: **All**
Report By: **Director of Planning and Environmental Services and
Head of Business Services**
Contact Officer(s): **Lindsay Frost, Director of Planning and Environmental
Services**
John Clark, Head of Business Services

Purpose of Report:

To seek agreement to the transfer of the GIS Section from Planning Administration to the IT Unit

Officers Recommendation(s):

- 1 That the GIS Section should be transferred from Planning Administration to the IT Unit along with all associated budgets, as from 30 September 2007

Reasons for Recommendations

- 1 The future work of the GIS section will have a more corporate focus than in previous years and will require much closer working with the IT Unit. There are significant operational and managerial advantages in combining the two sections.

Information

- 2 The GIS Section has always been based in Planning Administration and that arrangement made sense while the data capture work on past planning applications was the main focus of work. That work has now been completed, but other areas of work have grown, in particular work on the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and expansion of GIS databases to cover a growing range of council functions beyond Planning.
- 3 At your last meeting you considered a report on the resources needed to continue work on the LLPG and agreed to:
 - Allocate £14,000 to allow a temporary contract to be extended to 31 March 2008
 - Consider further resources needed for the work at the end of 2007 when the Government's Comprehensive Spending review proposals were known

- 4 As previously reported, many of the benefits of a complete LLPG (and wider GIS service) will only come if it is extended to services other than those that are planning related e.g. council tax and business rates, waste and recycling. The extension of the service will need much closer working with the IT Unit in future to ensure system compatibility, database support, equipment support etc.
- 5 No matter what the result is of the further review of resources at the end of 2007, it is clear that there would be significant operational advantages if the GIS section transferred to the IT Unit. This would allow the close working that is needed to be more easily managed and for the further developments planned for GIS and LLPG to be absorbed and timetabled into the larger IT Service Plan. The close GIS support currently given to Planning will continue.
- 6 The three staff (one permanent post and two temporary posts) concerned have been consulted and agree with the proposal.
- 7 It is recommended therefore that the transfer takes place on 30 September 2007. The planned review of LLPG resources will still take place at the end of the year.

Financial Appraisal

There are no new financial implications arising from this report although the GIS related budgets will transfer from Planning to the IT Unit.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications as a result of this report

Risk Management Implications

The changes/issues covered by this report are not significant in terms of risk. No new risks will arise whether or not the recommendations are implemented or rejected.

Background Papers

Report 145/07 to LDC Cabinet: National Land and Property Gazetteer ; to consider future resources to deliver the local gazetteer, 23 July 2007

Appendices - None