



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mike Day
City and County of Swansea

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:
Direct Line:
Linell
Uniongyrochol:
E-Mail / E-Bost:
Our Ref / Ein Cyf:
Your Ref / Eich
Cyf:
Date / Dyddiad:

Councillor Rob Stewart
(01792) 637440
rob.stewart@swansea.gov.uk
RS/SH
SPC/2013-14/11
26 February 2014

**If you require this or any other information in another format
e.g. Braille, audio tape or a different language, please contact me**

Dear Councillor Day

In response to the questions raised around Information Technology, please find my response below.

1. Microsoft Licensing

The Council has used Microsoft software products since its inception in 1996 as the principal business and productivity platform.

In 2003 a decision was taken by CMT to approve the procurement of a Microsoft Enterprise licence, the cost to be phased over 3 years, which would allow all users to upgrade to the latest versions of the software. The Microsoft platform was subsequently built into the Capgemini support model for the 10 years of the contract.

Because of the need to periodically upgrade the software, and the constraints of the Capgemini contract, we have continued our subscription to Microsoft on the understanding that we would investigate alternatives post contract.

We are in the process of upgrading all our back-office systems, desktop O/S and applications to the latest versions to improve system reliability and responsiveness. This process will be completed by the end of 2014. We will then look again at what possibilities, including open-source, are available prior to 2016.

The current annual cost of the MS subscription is £400k

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
ROB STEWART
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & RESOURCES
AELOD Y CABINET DROS GYLLID AC ADNODDAU

CABINET OFFICE, CIVIC CENTRE, OYSTERMOUTH ROAD, SWANSEA SA1 3SN
SWYDDFA'R CABINET, CANOLFAN DDINESIG, HEOL YSTUMLLWYNARTH, ABERTAWE SA1 3SN

☎ (01792) 637440 ☎ (01792) 636196
✉ rob.stewart@swansea.gov.uk www.swansea.gov.uk

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

- 2 -

2. Open Source software:

Currently we have limited options to use open-source software, because:

- The Capgemini support model does not include open source platforms for server and desktop
- Although the Cabinet Office actively promotes the use of Open Source software, there are caveats where network security and connection to the Government Secure Infrastructure are concerned.
- Current open source desktop products do not provide a fully integrated desktop and email solution or the breadth of the Microsoft platform.

However, we are increasingly using Linux as a replacement for the Windows Server O/S, and chose it, rather than Windows or the expensive proprietary O/S from SUN (Oracle) when replacing our Oracle ISIS system last year. The major desktop Office alternative, OpenOffice, has been slow to develop in recent years and also slow in rectifying security vulnerabilities. We intend to evaluate an alternative product, LibreOffice, during 2014/15

3. Software Development:

Our current software development resource is incorporated into the Capgemini support contract and is limited to the existing range of software in use within the Council. New development and the introduction of new software is subject to an additional charge which limits development.

It is our intention, as part of the overall re-structure and planning for a replacement to the Capgemini contract, to expand the in-house capacity for software development, and we're also discussing shared development resource with NPTBC and other Councils in the region as part of our regional collaboration agenda.

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
ROB STEWART
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & RESOURCES
AELOD Y CABINET DROS GYLLID AC ADNODDAU

CABINET OFFICE, CIVIC CENTRE, OYSTERMOUTH ROAD, SWANSEA SA1 3SN
SWYDDFA'R CABINET, CANOLFAN DDINESIG, HEOL YSTUMLLWYNARTH, ABERTAWE SA1 3SN

☎ (01792) 637440 📠 (01792) 636196

✉ rob.stewart@swansea.gov.uk www.swansea.gov.uk

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

- 3 -

4. PC Usage:

The current model of a 3-year replacement cycle was devised at a time when we could only procure leasing arrangements based on the (then) maximum warranty period of 3 years. The cost of this 3 year cycle is built into the contract and we are obliged to continue it until end of contract.

Post-contract we envisage most staff using shared workstations based on thin-client technology to minimise the actual number of stations required (note that the hot-desking element of this is already being rolled out as part of the Agile Working Programme). More specialised requirements, e.g. mobile working and CAD, would be provided according to need with a 5-year replacement program as standard

5. Mobile Working:

We are in the process of implementing wi-fi zones in public areas of the Civic Centre and Guildhall. The technical design has been completed and agreed and the installations will start in March of this year.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & RESOURCES

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
ROB STEWART
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & RESOURCES
AELOD Y CABINET DROS GYLLID AC ADNODDAU

CABINET OFFICE, CIVIC CENTRE, OYSTERMOUTH ROAD, SWANSEA SA1 3SN
SWYDDFA'R CABINET, CANOLFAN DDINESIG, HEOL YSTUMLLWYNARTH, ABERTAWE SA1 3SN

☎ (01792) 637440 ☎ (01792) 636196
✉ rob.stewart@swansea.gov.uk www.swansea.gov.uk