

**ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL
DECISION REGISTER – 2002/3**

Portfolio(s) Decision relates to	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	Name of Portfolio:	RESOURCES
Decision Maker	<i>Print Name</i> Ian Duffield	Officer	√
		Portfolio	
Type of decision		Key	
		Significant	√
		Virement	
		Delegation	
		Other (specify)	
Scheme of Delegation reference under which decision is taken 8.4.7 / and Contract Procedure Rules 6 (b)			
DECISION		Date decision taken: 4 December 2002	
<p>A negotiated extension to the Financial Management System contract with Anite Public Sector Ltd for one year from 1 October 2004 to 31 October 2005.</p> <p>In arriving at my decision I have properly and thoroughly taken into account the legal, financial and workforce implications for the Council. My decision is within the Council's policy and budget framework and complies with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. I have explicitly considered the Council's corporate objectives in arriving at my decision. In coming to my decision I have consulted with all relevant parties as appropriate, and in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation</p>			
BASIS FOR DECISION			
<p>The basis for the decision is that the current contract cost is £14,366.50 (2002/2003) and the negotiated cost is equivalent to £25,145.44 for 2004/2005.</p>			
REASON FOR DECISION			
<p>The reason for the decision is that the Council receives very good quality of service from the existing Anite Public Sector Ltd system which provides the full range of Financial Management modules required by the Council.</p> <p>The current system is user friendly and provides robust management information required to ensure the proper controls for the management of the Council's finances.</p> <p>The system management and accounting support is provided professionally by a team of highly trained and experienced accountants. The system has recently been acquired by Anite Public Sector Ltd (from Cedar Enterprise Solutions) which has undertaken to provide full support and development for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>The Council is committed to meet the Government's e-government targets and will need to move to e-financials in due course to meet the requirements.</p> <p>It is estimated that the work required to undertake a comprehensive review (including a compatible e-procurement system), evaluation and implementation of a new system will take up to two years.</p> <p>The cost of acquiring and implementing a new system is likely to be in the region of £400,000, subject to the level of internal support, particularly from Information and Communication Technology Services.</p> <p>The replacement of the Financial Management System was included on the list of new items for the 2003/04 budget reported to the Overview and Scrutiny (Corporate Services) Committee on 2 December 2002 when the possibility of extending the current contract was mentioned.</p>			

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED		REASONS FOR REJECTION	
1. Two year extension		No material financial advantage. Flexible option for future decision.	
2. Full tender process		See reason for decision	
CONSULTEES			
Name	Position	Date of Consultation	Outcome of consultation <i>(may cross reference to supplementary sheets/background papers)</i>
..... Signature (<i>Lead Officer/ PH/Ward M</i>)			
1. David Parrett	Financial Services Manager	19 November 2002	Recommended extension
2. Mick Lowe	Interim Manager	19 November 2002	Recommended extension
3. Councillor Chris Oxley	Resources Portfolio Holder	4 December 2002	Supported extension
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985)			
Bibliography	Custodian	File Location	
1 Prepared report	D A Parrett	District Council Offices Civic Centre St Peters Street St Albans AL1 3JE	
2 Custodian of supporting documentation	P A Smith		