



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

to
**STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
28 JANUARY 2021**

DONATION OF LAPTOPS FOR ESSEX CHILDREN

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the donation of the Council's obsolete laptops to Essex County Council for use by children in Essex who do not have access to suitable devices for online learning.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council's four remaining obsolete laptops and four iPads are donated to Essex County Council's laptop recycling scheme.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Essex County Council has launched a laptop recycling scheme, which seeks to provide laptop devices to young people who need them for educational purposes. It became apparent during the last lockdown that some young people did not have laptops to access work that was being set at home, this scheme looks to close the tech gap. Essex County Council (ECC) has partnered with End of Life IT Services (EOL), based in Maldon, to take old devices and either recondition them for future use or sell them and then use the residual value to purchase Google Chromebooks for children who need them. Essex County Council prioritised their own devices as the first 'pilot' of the model, and EOL have processed this first batch of donated laptops (500) - the reconditioned laptops, or their residual financial value, is 100% redirected into devices for Essex children.
- 3.2 They are now ready for phase two of the project and so are branching out to ask for old laptop donations from businesses and organisations across Essex.
- 3.3 In addition, although specifically not requested by ECC, we can offer the remaining iPads to see if these can be of use to young people for education.

4. OBSOLETE LAPTOPS

- 4.1 The Council holds four older laptops which do not have cameras and are therefore not fit for use by Maldon District Council (MDC) and were due to be sold. The maximum re-sale value of each laptop is estimated at £350 (total £1,400). It also

holds four iPads which are no longer required. These have a re-sale value of £100 (total £400).

- 4.2 Contract Procedure Rules set out the approved process for disposal of Council assets and first refusal is given to the Parish Councils (at market value). Disposal is then by way of an auction, quote or tender.
- 4.3 Strategy and Resources Committee has financial delegation up to £20,000 and is therefore able to approve an allocation of these resources.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Donations of the laptops would be used to support the learning of children in Essex. There would be a loss of income of up to £1,800 by donating rather than selling.

6. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 6.1 This fits with the strategic theme of Community.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on resources (financial)** – The income lost from donation of the assets is estimated to be no more than £1,400.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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