

## Policy & Resources Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>13 February 2018</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Radio System</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Janine Howells, Asset Manager</b>

### Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the purchase of a replacement radio system for the Maintenance Team.

### Background

2. The current system purchased in 2007, provides very limited signal coverage to the working area of the team and the system has become ineffective in both its functionality and health and safety use.

### Resource Appraisals

3. Tests have been carried out by local provider Resound (Aylesbury) and it is recommended that the system is upgraded to a digital radio system. The Maintenance Supervisor and the engineer carried out numerous tests around Thame to ensure complete coverage and are satisfied the proposed system fits the requirements of the team.
4. The existing aerial on the Town Hall will be used by the new system, all other equipment will be upgraded and replaced.
5. The Maintenance Team consist of four members of staff who would be allocated an individual radio. Each radio would have an earpiece which can be used underneath ear defenders to ensure contact is maintained during noisy work. Standard text messages can also be sent to all radios or individual radios if communication is non urgent.
6. During the grass cutting season the majority of operations are undertaken individually and lone working situations apply. The radios will enable a quick response to machinery break downs etc. All radios will have an emergency alarm function which will identify the radio operative concerned to enable a response by staff whether verbally or attendance at site.
7. The Asset Manager and Town Hall staff would have access to a radio to communicate with the Maintenance Team and vice versa, providing effective communication diverting staff in responding to emergency situations etc. and being efficient and effective in providing a maintenance service.
8. The existing Ofcom Business Radio Licence for the system will be used and the annual fee of £125.00 is allocated within the existing cost centre 202 - Outside Services.
9. The radio system would also be used for Council events and can be supplemented by hiring additional handsets from the supplier to enable all staff engaged on the event to communicate with each other.

## Options for a New Digital Radio System

### 10. Purchase

Supply and install 1 x Motorola SLR5500 VHF Slim line Repeater Base Station, 4 x Motorola DP4600e VHF Digital Radios with screen & part keypad and 1 x Motorola SL1600 VHF slim line digital radio with 5 earpieces and chargers at a cost of £4,336.00 + VAT. If the system is purchased there is no maintenance agreement in place apart from manufacturer's guarantees. Any repairs or equipment replacements would be met from the existing cost centre 202 - Outside Services.

### 11. Hire

A three year hire agreement option for the above equipment has also been supplied at a cost of £149.00 + VAT per month. This would equate to £5,364.00 + VAT for the three year hire period. This includes maintenance of the system.

12. Considering both options it would be more economical to purchase the system with an estimated lifespan of 5-8 years.

**Legal Powers:** Local Government Act 1972 s111

### Recommendation:

- i) To resolve that £4,336 be allocated from the Rolling Capital Fund to provide a replacement radio system for the Maintenance Team.***