

FULL COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 13 – NEW OFFICE COMPUTER

Uniserve were asked to have a look at the office computer at their recent site visit. This was primarily because it runs so slowly and often freezes in the middle of a task. My laptop runs at double the speed, so I am wasting a significant amount of time when I work in the office.

The council previously agreed to obtain a quote once a new email and website provider was in place.

I requested a quote for a re-conditioned machine.

Uniserve's quote for a refurbished PC for the office is as follows:

Ex Demo Punch Ryzen 5 Pro 5650, 256Gb SSD, 8 GB Ram Windows 10 Home - £340 + VAT



For the setup, I could try and do it within 1 hour but would estimate it to take 2 hours minimum @ £72 + VAT per hour.

Uniserve's reasons for a new computer are as follows:

The reasons why the PC needs to be replaced are as mentioned below.

1. Won't receive the latest security updates leaving the machine to open up security vulnerabilities
2. The Drive in the machine is currently an old rotating Hard drive which over time the performance starts to deteriorate.
3. The CPU in the machine as I mentioned below is 19 years old and when doing the simplest of tasks becomes throttled causing the machine to freeze.

We could look into cheaper machines, but it would be a false economy because the quality of the product would depreciate, which might still cost you more over time if you encounter issues with the device.

Cllr Billings requested I investigate the option of having two screens with my existing computer – Uniserve have confirmed that this is unlikely to be an option. The model that has been quoted does support two screens.

Uniserve also confirmed that de-fragging would not work as the issues are more hardware related.

I also requested additional information as to why a cheaper model for around £100 would not be an option. The response was:

The main component of your current PC, the 'CPU', is outdated and won't support the latest version of Windows 11 from Microsoft. This is important for two reasons – one: You won't be able to install Microsoft's latest security patches which are essential for protection, and two: Microsoft are making the updates mandatory by October 2025 regardless.

For that reason, a replacement computer with more up-to-date hardware will future proof you considerably and save on upgrade costs down the road.

Additionally, the computer chosen by Thomas for the quote was selected using our in-depth knowledge of computer components to find the best part/cost ratio. The computers supplied by Uniserve will be remotely updated and managed, as well as any other support. Purchasing a computer elsewhere may work out cheaper, but we wouldn't support it and couldn't confirm its effectiveness.

Lastly, and most importantly, purchasing computers online is a lot more nuanced than it seems. Going for the budget options initially will result in the purchasing of a computer that isn't much faster than your current one. And in 6 months it will need upgrading again, which isn't always possible in budget models. Computer listings on eBay and Amazon can be deceptive too, offering the "best" performance on a budget, but it's simply a marketing trick.

If the council agree, how would it be financed?

Ear Marked Reserve 390 – Infrastructure currently has funds of £3,927.40.

Uniserve's invoice for the changeover on this month's payment list is £1,010.40.

If the council agree to a new website – the approximate cost would be under £1,000.00

This would leave a balance of £1,917.00 – the expected cost if the quote is accepted would be approximately £500.

Or

A new computer could feature in next year's budget.

My recommendation would be to purchase a new computer this year as the machine is getting steadily slower and will only get worse. My time in the office will be more productive and this item will need replacing in the very near future.