

Financial Advice

Move to a software as a service solution for children's and adults case management (Liquidlogic) and ContrOCC systems

The decision seeks to recontract the current Liquidlogic case management offer which impacts the Children's and Adults directorates. The proposed contract changes would permanently impact the revenue budget from 2025/26 onwards and create an annual budget pressure of £0.148m. Additionally, one-off set-up costs would need to be funded at £17.6k for 2024/25 (assuming contractual start in 2025/26 as stated in the decision).

The £0.148m contractual pressure can be part-funded by growth funding allocated from the MTFP 2024/25+ process, reference 'Children's Staffing - Liquid Logic Growth Bid'. The profile of this budgeted growth funding is as per **Table 1**.

Table 1: Budgeted Growth for Liquid Logic Growth Bid				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£m			
1: Server move to cloud hosting	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125
2: One-off costs	0.039			
3: Service pack days	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022
4: Liquidlogic consultant	0.132			
5: Internal Staffing	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069
6: Contingency	0.047	0.008	0.008	0.008
Total	0.435	0.225	0.225	0.225

Table 1 row 1 shows the original estimated additional budget allocation for the move to cloud hosting of £0.125m. The revised annual cost is now estimated at £0.148m. If the original budget plus contingency was used to fund the revised contract cost uplift, this would leave an ongoing budget pressure of £14.7k. This ongoing revenue pressure cannot be met within current Children's Directorate services. Once implementation occurs, it is proposed the budgets are transferred to IT within F&R. This ongoing future pressure would need to be met either by:

1. current IT service budgets or
2. requesting additional growth in the 2025/26+ MTFP process by the IT service

Further one-off costs of £17.6k on top of that described in **Table 1** row 2 can be met from row 4 as staff slippage has occurred in this financial year.

All contractual changes would need to align to current NCC Procurement procedures as per Financial Regulations.

Risks

The current growth profile assumed implementation in 2024/25 and the increased one-off costs have been factored into the current financial year. Due to the slippage of the project, the growth profile does not match the expected future costs and puts pressure on 2025/26+ financial years.

Due to the slippage of the project start in 2024/25, there is one-off underspend within the Children's Directorate related to this growth item. Carry-forward or reserve request may be an option to fund 2025/26 one-off pressures.

It is noted that the current budget provision for the existing Liquidlogic contract costs (not currently under the Children's Directorate remit) is under pressure. This pressure should also be considered in the same potential growth bid (reference 2) above.

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