Inverclyde council

Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	**Date:**	**10 March 2020**
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	**Report No:**	**EDUCOM/18/20/NG**
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Subject:	**Replacement of Technical Department computers and interactive whiteboards in Education establishments**		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the need to replace the computers within Secondary School Technical Departments and interactive whiteboards in some schools and Early Years establishments.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Currently, secondary schools are able to offer a wide range of courses to their Senior Phase students, including the option of Graphics Communications at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level. These courses help provide many students with opportunities to gain accreditation for future Further and Higher Education study and experience in design for many career pathways.

2.2 Inverclyde Education Services needs now to respond to changes to the software application that is used by the schools for these SQA courses, which in turn necessitate a requirement for an increased specification of computer both in terms of memory capacity and graphics cards.

2.3 Inverclyde Schools Estate have proposed the phased replacement of interactive whiteboards in 20 schools and 5 Early Years establishments and approval for the proposed funding route is sought.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

3.1 Note the need to purchase replacement Technical Department computers to ensure that National Qualifications in Graphic Communication can continue to be delivered in our Secondary schools and that this be funded in part by the Corporate ICT computer refreshment budget (£90,000), with the expected remaining £90,000 from the Education Capital Cyclical Upgrades budget.

3.2 Note the proposed Schools Estate Team programme for the replacement of ageing Interactive whiteboards be released and agree that the funding for phases 1 and 2 of this programme be £400,000 from the Education Capital Cyclical Upgrades budget and, subject to confirmation as part of the Budget, £300,000 from the SEMP earmarked reserve.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director

Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Inverclyde Schools Estate Team have installed as part of their School and Early Years establishment refurbishment/rebuilding programme, a range of display technology to support learning. Initially these were interactive whiteboards with attached projection. In more recent work, Promethean Digital Active Panels have been put in place, reducing the need for replacement projectors and/or bulbs when faults arise.

4.2 Inverclyde Schools Estate Team have suggested that as part of their future planning and focus, a programme to replace the interactive whiteboards with Digital Active Panels within 25 educational establishments over a period of three years. The estimated cost of this is £1.3million. Now is identified as a good time to implement this programme as the need for larger building repairs is less likely due to the good condition of our recently refurbished or newly built schools.

4.3 At the time of their refurbishments, three schools (Clydeview Academy, King's Oak Primary and Notre Dame High School) were fitted with a specific design of board with a short arm and fish-eye projector. These have presented specific issues when seeking replacement parts. Over the course of the last three years, both ICT services and the schools themselves have had to pay for the replacements of the arms and projectors on these boards as and when the projectors have failed. It is anticipated that in the coming years the remaining projectors may also fail and need replaced. When a fish-eye projector is required to be replaced a new longer arm now has to be fitted to allow available models of projector to be attached to the board.

4.4 Specific issues with the model and design of Sahara Activescreens in Craigmarloch school may require a quicker replacement programme to be put into place. ICT Services are currently working with the supplier to overcome some recurring faults.

4.5 The replacement of the 304 Technical Department computers needs to be addressed as a priority. In the case of four of the secondary schools, the demand for SQA Graphical Communications courses and/or the sharing of technical computer suites, requires all of the technical computers to be replaced whilst two of the secondary schools (Inverclyde Academy and Clydeview Academy) have identified that there may be scope through changes to the timetabling of courses to look to reduce the number of computer suites requiring this new software (two rooms rather than three in each location). This would further reduce the number of computers needing replaced by 39.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 The cost of the higher specification computer required, is £640 in comparison to an entry level specification computer at £340. The cost of technology is changing on a frequent basis due to the impact of UK Government Brexit decisions and a changing dollar exchange rate, so these figures may change. As this however will only be able to be confirmed once student option choices for next session have been identified and agreed, our recommendation is that the current level of provision continues to ensure that future option flexibility is possible.

5.2 The priority for any replacement to the whiteboards should focus on the replacement of the displays within the three schools with the specific short throw projectors. The cost of their replacement should be factored against the need for an interactive display within their classrooms. Consideration should also be given as to whether the replacement of the arms and projectors would bring a cost saving which would also provide the finance to replace any ageing computer that is connected to it. In the case of King's Oak Primary school, the Active panels would be required to suit their teaching and learning methodologies.

5.3 The programme of whiteboard replacement within the Secondary schools will be looked at on a school by school basis. Again it is envisaged that a number of departments do not need a full interactive whiteboard but would be better replaced with a large fixed TV screen monitor connected to the computer. Again the cost savings in doing so may allow for the replacement

of the ageing computers connected to the boards/panels. Some Secondary departments may be able to operate well with only a large TV Screen connected to their computers rather than a full Digital Active panel.

5.4 It should be noted that board replacement with a TV monitor would also require identification of costings for the fixing of these devices to the wall, appropriate speakers and the need for a graphics pad to allow for handwriting to continue. Final costing of this option would require a fuller procurement process to be carried out following a wider departmental survey of each secondary school.

5.5 Funding for the replacement of interactive whiteboards in nine Early Years establishments / classrooms has already been identified as part of the 1140 hours project. The schools estate can therefore look at revising its planned replacement programme.

5.6 ICT Services have advised that due to the volume of work already on the programme for the next 6 months, they will require to utilise external support to meet the Technical Computer refresh timescales.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Funding for future phases of the Whiteboard refresh programme will be the subject of a future report.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Computer Replacement	Capital	20/21	£180,000		£90k ICT Capital, £90k Education Capital.
Whiteboard Refresh		20/21	£1.3million		The initial sum of £700,000 being requested will enable most of phase 1 and phase 2 programme to be considered.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

6.2 **Legal**

No implications.

6.3 **Human Resources**

No implications.

6.4 **Equalities**

Equalities

(a)   Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
✓	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b)   Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
✓	NO

(c)   Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
✓	NO

6.5   **Repopulation**

No impact.

7.0   CONSULTATIONS

7.1   Head teachers and senior managers of every secondary school and identified Primary Schools were asked to submit their views on the proposed whiteboard replacement programme.

8.0   BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A.