


Corby Town Council Report	Meeting Date:	30 th January 2024	Agenda Item	291/24
	From	Clerk	Felicity Ryan	
		Councillor		
	Working Party			
	For Information	Yes	For Decision	X
	Financial implications	None		
		In current year's budget		X
		Adjust current year's budget		
	Consider for next year's budget		X	

FINANCE

1. Purpose of Report

- a. Receive a report from the Town Clerk on recommendations for an alternative website provider.
- b. The recommendation in the report will assist Councillors make a decision as to which website provider to choose.

2. Executive summary

- As a town council we are required to have a website and be accountable to the electorate in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. In addition to this a good website enables us as follows :

Transparency and Accountability:

- Having a website allows the town council to provide information on its activities, decisions, and policies, fostering transparency and accountability.

Communication with Residents:

- A website serves as a central hub for residents to access information about town events, meetings, and important announcements.

**Public Participation:**

- Online platforms facilitate public engagement and participation in decision-making processes.

Accessibility:

- A website ensures that information is accessible to a wider audience, including individuals with disabilities.

Document Repository:

- A website will serve as a repository for official documents, meeting minutes, and agendas, making them easily accessible to the public.

Emergency Communication:

- A website provides a platform to disseminate critical information during emergencies, such as natural disasters or public health crises.

Community Services Information:

- The website is a source of information about local services, permits, and signposting resources for residents and businesses.

Efficiency and Cost Savings:

- Utilising a website for communication and document distribution can be more cost-effective than traditional methods.

On 5th January 2024, we received an e mail from 2commune stating that their platform which is hosted by a third party (Cuttlefish) would no longer be available. This means that our current platform will no longer be available from 31st March 2024.

Corby Town Council have the service of 2commune in relation to web hosting until February 2024 and they also managed the domain name (corbytowncouncil.gov.uk) until 19/02/2025.

Northants CALC have provided an advice page as the situation has developed which can be found here and contain a list of FAQ's. : [2Commune | My Website \(northantscalc.com\)](http://2Commune | My Website (northantscalc.com))

NCALC advise that if a council decides to move its website, it is advised to move its email system and domain name as well.

A number of companies have been approached and the staff have held calls and demonstrations with various providers in the sector that understand our requirements.



Three quotes have been obtained from website providers as follows:

Provider 1 :

1. One-off set up of site: £975 + VAT
2. Annual SSL-protected hosting with up to 2GB file storage & 2 hours of support: £299 + VAT pa
3. Transfer of key/regulatory content from your current website (words, pictures, documents and links in About the council, Meetings, Services, What's On, Planning – 2 years of meeting docs +5 years of AGAR*): £500 + VAT (older documents can be transferred POA)
4. DNS & annual registration management of .gov.uk domain: £100 + VAT pa
5. Training on the system: free of charge, via our monthly group training sessions
6. Access to our support team and WCAG Website Learning Centre: free, included.
7. Access to monthly drop-in WCAG Website Zoom training refresher sessions: free, included in the hosting & support =

Total build & year one = £1,874 + VAT (Discount for SLCC membership)

Year 2 = £399 + VAT

Provider 2 :

1. Parish Council WCS Annual Hosting & Support for 16+ Councillors (PCWCS16+ Support)
2. Parish Council WCS Website inc Install and Training (PCWCS)

Total £1429 + VAT

Provider 3 :

Set up cost : £950.00

Support fee : £100.00

Annual hosting :£99.99

Domain : £110.00

Total including VAT = £1301.99

Recommendation :To proceed with Provider 1, based on recommendations, usability for members of the public and support for staff.