The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn
NHS Foundation Trust

Request for Urgent Decision under Standing Order 5 Paragraph 5.2

"5.2 Emergency Powers and urgent decisions
The powers which the Board has reserved to itself within these Standing Orders (see Standing Order 2.7) may in emergency or for an urgent decision be exercised by the Chief Executive and the Chairman after having consulted at least two non-executive members. The exercise of such powers by the Chief Executive and Chairman shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Trust Board for formal noting. In exercising such powers the Chief Executive and Chairman shall be acting as a committee of the Board."

Title: Approval to proceed with Capital Purchase of End of Switches

Date of request: 18th January 2018 **Authorisation needed by: Mr R Jackson**

Request initiated/referred by: Mr D Martin

1. Summary:

A significant number of IT network switches in use at the Trust have been deemed end of life and are no longer supported by the manufacturer or their support partners.

A business case was prepared for the replacement of the switches in July 2017 and presented to the Executive Directors in November 2017.

However following a tendering exercise it identified the costs were significantly higher than the original business case value, with multiple suppliers providing various elements of the switches.

As a consequence the ICT team went back to the Trusts current Cisco support partner (Block Solutions), who have subsequently submitted a revised preferential price which is £5k over the original quoted price and significantly lower from the framework tendered price. However to obtain this revised price a Purchase Order needs to be with the supplier by the 25th January 2018.

Below is a timeline of events to this point:

- July 2017: Original Business Case cost - £350,000
- Dec 2017: NHS Framework cost - £376,907
- Dec 2017: Block Solutions cost - £404,983
- Jan 2018: Cisco/Block preferential cost - £355,295

2. Policy Implications:

No specific implications on Trust policies.

3. Financial Implications:

The replacement of the end of life switches is included in the 2017/18 Capital Programme however if the approval to proceed is not granted it will end up costing the Trust a further £49,688 to replace the end of life switches.

4. Risk Assessment:

By not replacing the end of life switches it will cause a disruption to the delivery of the Trusts clinical / business services as a result of connectivity issues resulting from switch failures. As the existing Cisco switches have gone "end of life" then no hardware/software support will be available from Cisco should the switches fail. Failure would result in network downtime while waiting for alternative new switches to be sourced.

Not replacing the switches could possibly leave the Trust vulnerable to cyber-attacks should new software vulnerabilities be discovered in the operating system of the end of life switches and this becomes exploited by cyber criminals.

5. Reason why matter is urgent:

To ensure the Trust is obtaining value for money for the replacement switches using the preferential price provided of £355,295 a Purchase Order needs to be with the supplier by the 25th January 2018.

6. Consultation

No specific consultation

7. Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the procurement of the replacement of the end of life switches from our preferred supplier for £355,295 to ensure we can obtain value for money.

Authorised by:

Chief Executive Mr Jon Green	Signature Date: 23/1/18
Chair Mr Edward Libbey	Signature Date: 23rd Jan 2018

To be reported to the Board on 30th January 2018