Report to	Wem Town Council
Date of meeting	26 November 2026
Report authors	A Roberts (RFO)
Subject	Computer and Finance Package Upgrade
Decisions required	Yes

Replacement Computer Equipment and Rialtas Finance System

1. Executive Summary

The Council's main office PC needs to be replaced. It is proposed that this is replaced with a laptop and docking station, at a cost of £1,191, allowing the Town Clerk to use one desktop setup in the office and while working remotely

The current Rialtas Finance system is installed on users' computers but relies on the main office PC being switched on for access. With the move to a laptop, there will no longer be a permanently available main PC, so the existing arrangement will not be suitable. Rialtas' web-based system will allow licensed users to access the Council's financial information without relying on a particular office computer.

2. Recommendations

That the Council approves:

- the purchase of a replacement laptop and docking station at a cost of £1,191, funded from the allocation for computers in the current year's budget.
- the move to Rialtas' web-based finance system at an annual cost of £1,271, with an additional cost of £174.17 for the remainder of the current financial year.

3. Background

The Council currently uses the Rialtas Finance package to manage all its financial information. The package costs £853 per year and is loaded onto users' laptops or PCs. Access depends on the main office PC being switched on; if it is switched off, users cannot access the system.

The Town Clerk uses the main PC, which needs replacing. The proposed arrangement is to purchase a laptop and docking station for the Town Clerk. This will provide a single desktop working setup in the office and when working remotely. However, it also means there will not always be a main PC in the office for other users to connect to.

The web-based Rialtas system (RialtasWeb) removes this dependency and allows licensed users to access the finance package remotely. The change is required as a consequence of replacing the existing PC and will provide more flexible access to the Council's financial system. Additionally, Moving to RialtasWeb will give the Council access to new features and modules as they are developed and released.
4. Financial Implications

The replacement laptop and docking station will cost £1,191. There is an allocation for computers in the current year's budget which will cover this cost.
The web-based Rialtas system costs £1,271 per year, compared with £853 for the current system, an annual increase of £418. The additional cost for the remainder of the current financial year is £175.

5. Legal, Risk and Governance Implications

The web-based system will remove the Council's reliance on a single office PC and support continuity of access when staff are working remotely or the office computer is unavailable. Access will be restricted to licensed users through individual accounts and appropriate authentication controls.

6. Next Steps

If approved, officers will arrange the purchase and setup of the laptop and docking station and liaise with Rialtas to move to the web-based system. Licensed users will be provided with access as required.