

Appendix 2



Appendix subject	Factors influencing the cost of BCP Council laptops
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The cost of BCP laptops reflects the need to provide secure, reliable and manageable technology that supports service delivery across the organisation. While the Council continues to identify opportunities to reduce costs, these must be balanced against the need to maintain security, compliance and operational performance

BCP Council provides laptops to enable staff to deliver services securely, reliably and efficiently. Device pricing in the global market is currently highly volatile (June 2026) and can change quickly based on supply chain, demand and technology factors. The typical cost of around £1,000 per device reflects recent procurement outcomes and is considered representative of the pricing that BCP has been able to achieve through competitive processes over time.

Council laptops are specified using a structured approach that balances cost, security, performance and long-term value. A standard baseline specification is applied across most of the workforce to ensure consistency, reduce complexity and support efficient management at scale. Higher specification devices are only provided where there is a clear business need.

The price of each device includes more than the physical laptop. It covers the full enterprise provision, including warranty, technical support, secure build and configuration, and essential peripherals. It also reflects the systems and processes required to manage devices consistently across the organisation.

Devices are procured through national frameworks and competitive processes to ensure value for money. While BCP secures discounts through these arrangements, its purchasing volumes are much smaller than those of large global organisations, which directly affects the unit price that can be achieved.

Lower-cost alternatives have been explored in recent months. While some options indicated potential savings, they were not deliverable at scale or over time, or introduced practical issues such as longer lead times and reduced flexibility to meet business needs. Thorough market testing will be conducted before any procurement to ensure all viable options are considered.

Maintaining a standardised device estate is a deliberate choice. Introducing multiple device types would increase complexity in support, maintenance and security management, and place additional pressure on IT services. This would increase overall operational risk and cost.

Council laptops must meet higher standards than consumer devices. They are designed to support secure access to sensitive data, integrate with corporate systems, and operate reliably across a wide range of roles, including mobile and frontline services. These requirements result in a different cost base to retail devices.

The Council manages cost over the full lifecycle of each device, typically four to five years. Value is extended through reuse and refurbishment where appropriate, and specifications and contracts are regularly reviewed to ensure they remain proportionate and cost-effective.