STAFF REPORT

TO:	Corporate Services Committee
FROM:	Peter Darlington Information Services Manager
REFERENCE:	
DATE:	25 February 2008
SUBJECT:	Information Services Update Report

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

To update the Corporate Services Committee of Council on latest activity and projects in the Information Services Section.

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

1. Wireless computer access in the Richmond Office Civic area

The IS team will be testing a wireless computer connection in the Richmond Office Civic area within the next few weeks. It is hoped Council and Councillor laptops will be able to access work information as well as having access to outside information via the internet through this connection. If any Councillors have a laptop and would find this service useful, please contact Peter Darlington to register your interest.

2. Regional Broadband

The Nelson Marlborough Inforegion has short-listed two potential vendors to oversee the establishment and operation of the Internet Exchange for the region. A preferred vendor will be confirmed in the next few weeks and work on building the exchange will take place from April-May 2008. The NREDA are funding the initial establishment of the exchange which will then look to be funded through customers coming on to the network.

As well as this, I attended the Local Government Broadband Forum in Wellington on 20-21 February 2008. A few thoughts I took away from this meeting are;

- The top of the south is further ahead than many areas of the country who are only just starting to think about how to develop high speed networks.

- We are very lucky to have the amount of fibre in the ground that we have. We must make sure the opportunity is not wasted.

- The challenges to providing high-speed broadband in remote rural areas are extensive, but there is a general acknowledgement that these areas must not be left behind this time.

- Successful rollout projects require leadership with an understanding of the benefits and a will to get the job done.

3. Golden Bay Library opening

IS are involved in the provisioning of the network at the new library building over the next few weeks. We will also be looking after the moving of all PC's, copiers and printers to the new location prior to opening.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Information Services Update report dated 25 February 2008 be received.

Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager