

STAFF REPORT

TO: Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager

DATE: 29 May 2009

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. Mobile Building Inspections

Council building inspectors are currently trialling a new mobile inspections system. This system is provided as part of our NCS local government system and integrates with our regulatory and service request systems. Staff using it can fill out the inspection sheets on the computer and print out a copy for the customer onsite. When staff return to Council the inspections are uploaded automatically and the system updated with no manual or double handling involved.

Mobile Inspections has the potential to improve council productivity and make information available more quickly. The trial will run until the end of June with a view to moving staff onto the system in the new financial year.

2. Regional Broadband

Discussions between NREDA and Network Tasman Ltd are continuing over the widening out of the Nelson Internet Exchange (NIX) to Richmond and Motueka.

In the meantime the government have released their Broadband Investment Initiative (BII). The BII will see the development of a Crown Fibre Investment Company (CFIC) that will partner with local fibre companies (LFCs) to oversee the extension of wholesale fibre in local regions and encourage the development of fast broadband retail services.

The Nelson Marlborough Inforegion submitted a registration of interest (RFI) in the formation of a LFC in conjunction with Network Tasman Ltd to the Ministry of Economic Development in April. The next stage is that the CFIC will be established in June and will call for Requests for Proposal (RFPs) from regional interested parties in August. The RFP process will close in October with successful proposals being announced in January 2010.

The Mayor and council staff met with the Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Hon. Steven Joyce in April 2009. The Minister indicated he was supportive of the type of locally owned fibre solution operating in the Tasman District as local partnerships committed to local solutions were preferable in the wholesale market to national telco solutions.

3. 2009/10 IS Audit Process

The annual IS Audit will take place in July this year. The 2008 Audit Office report highlighted one remediation point, the lack of an updated IS Disaster Recovery Plan. The Plan was last updated in 2004. The IS team reviewed the plan and completed the update in March.

4. Disaster Recovery plan Completion and Testing

The IS Disaster Recovery Plan establishes TDC's core IS Disaster Recovery (DR) processes in order to continue access or recover access to systems in the event of a disaster, and hence to provide continuity of Council services.

The Plan focuses on three scenarios, regional earthquake, building flooding, and fire or significant damage to the computer room on the Corporate Services floor. In the case of significant damage to the Main Office, Council have a recovery point based out of the District Library building.

The Plan has undergone one scenario test in February and another in May.

5. GIS Update

The GIS team have been working on the following outputs;

- Latest TRMP update
- Township and area maps for the LTCCP
- More environmental and rivers information in the Explore Environment application
- Updated dog walking areas

6. Staffing News

There have been two staff changes in the IS area. Daryl Kearns our IS Operations Supervisor has left to go overseas and been replaced by Adrian Fletcher. Sue Greatrex, our Business Information Analyst has returned from maternity leave replacing Shane Melton who was here temporarily during her absence.

RECOMMENDATION

That Information Services report dated 29 May 2009 be received.

Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager