

STAFF REPORT

TO: Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager

DATE: 21 August 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

The initial trial is over and has been deemed successful by the two building inspectors taking part. The building team is reviewing some of the process issues that arose as part of the trial and will make some internal changes and improvements.

The next stage will be to increase the mobile inspections team by another 2-4 units with Matt Feely from the original trial taking on the role of training up new users.

2. Regional Broadband

Progress is happening, albeit slowly, with the Regional Exchange. NMI are currently sourcing network equipment for the Richmond connection, expected to be installed in the old Network Tasman building on Queen Street. As well as this, TDC staff have given verbal agreement for the Motueka connection to be placed at the Motueka Service Centre. This will extend the broadband fibre to the Motueka region.

There has been another delay to the announcement on the creation of the Crown Fibre Investment Company. Originally scheduled for June 2009, it was delayed until mid-August 2009. Last week the Minister for Communications and IT, Steven Joyce released a statement that there will be a further delay of 2 – 2 ½ months putting the date back to at least November 2009.

In the meantime, Vodafone and Farmside have announced a joint initiative for delivery of broadband to rural areas via cellular and satellite. The initiative includes the installation of free cellular and wireless connections and improved data plans.

3. GIS Update

The GIS team have been working on the following outputs;

- Explore Environment integration with environmental management databases
- Further LiDAR rollout
- Development of the archaeological heritage sites dataset.

4. Library Building Work

Work began on 24 August 2009. IS staff are working with contractors on the switchboard change, computer room and new building data cabling.

5. Staffing News

- Ian Brown arrives in late August 2009 in the new position of IS Developer. This position will be responsible for ongoing development of Council systems, new systems development and integration with existing systems.
- The new Webmaster position is currently being advertised. This position will look after Council's Websites.
- Sue Greatrex will be going on maternity leave in early September 2009.

Recommendation

That the Information Services Update Report dated 21 August 2009 be received.

Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager