

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Corporate Services Committee
FROM: Information Services Manager
DATE: 6 September 2010
SUBJECT: **Information Services Update Report – RFN10-09-03**

PURPOSE

To update the Corporate Services Committee on the latest activity and projects in the Information Services Department.

DISCUSSION

Broadband

Telecom was in town on 9 August 2010 to explain its position in support of the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI). The key points of the proposal were:

- 97% of schools will have speeds of at least 5Mbps.
- 94 - 95% of households will have speeds of at least 1Mbps.
- There is a gap between those covered by the RBI (Zone 4) and those covered by the Ultra Fast Broadband (UFB) initiative (Zones 1-2). These are designated as Zone Three and include a reasonable amount of small towns and settlements in Tasman, e.g. Motueka, Takaka and Murchison.
- There are 336 schools nationally in the rural Zone Four.
- During Phase One, all Zone Four schools (less 78 extremely remote ones) will be connected.
- During Phase Two, Telecom will undertake a Zone 3 catch-up.
- During Phase Three, a final catch-up on all remaining remote areas will be completed.

GIS Update

Work is continuing with Nelson City Council on the shared regional GIS application with a planned release date for version one by December 2010. The project is on track, design work has been completed and the development phase (from September to November 2010) has begun.

Website Update

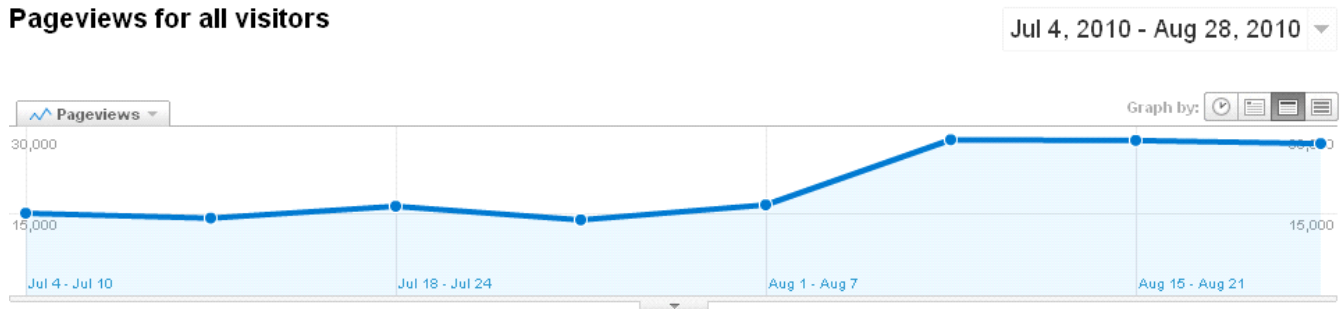
The new Website was launched on 12 August 2010. The launch has led to a significant surge in traffic:

- Weekly visitors have gone up 32% from around 3,000 to around 4,000
- Weekly visits have gone up 39% from around 4,000 to around 5,500
- Weekly page views have gone up 85% from around 15,000 to around 28,000

Some of this traffic surge has been caused by the recording of rates information searches, which has moved the rates traffic from 11% to 21% of page views. Taking that into account, page views have still gone up 57%.

The increase from launch date can be clearly seen on our Google Analytics usage statistics:

Pageviews for all visitors



Videoconferencing

We have begun scoping a project to install videoconferencing capabilities at our Richmond and Golden Bay offices. The units will allow staff and Councillors to attend certain meetings and be available for discussion between the two offices without the need to travel for a face-to-face meeting.

The project will take place from December 2010 to March 2011.

Elections2010 Website

Council has been asked to promote the Elections2010 website (<http://www.elections2010.co.nz/>) by Local Government Online. This site provides ward and candidate information as well as general information for the upcoming local body elections.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Information Services Update Report – RFN10-09-03 be received by the Corporate Services Committee.

Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager