

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members, Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager

DATE: 11 November 2010

SUBJECT: Information Services Update Report – RFN10-11-03

Purpose

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

Comment/Discussion

Broadband

Telecom are wishing to set up a Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG) for the implementation of the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI). This group would be made up of local councils, power companies, Internet and wireless service providers. The terms of reference for the group are to;

- a) ensure the best use of the Government Grant to meet rural broadband objectives in our region, specifically through maximising the value and coverage of the deployment;
- b) balance the national objectives (as set out in the RBI RFP) against regional requirements (as identified by the RSG); and
- c) leverage regional capability and resources to deliver a robust outcome.

Council is represented on the Group by the Chief Executive and Information Services Manager. Our role is one of support and assistance, with the main priority to secure the best broadband improvements for our region, be it from Telecom, the NZ Regional Fibre Group or any other provider.

GIS Update

The Regional GIS application is currently in the final stages of development. The final revision of the application should be in place and tested by the time of this meeting. The application is still on track for launch at the end of November 2010.

A quick overview of the system will be given to the Committee.

Council Website

A Website update report covering the issues raised at the last Corporate Services Committee is included with this report.

With the resolution of these issues and the completion of the initial launch applications, ongoing website content additions and changes will be managed by the Communications Supervisor (see "Staff Changes" section of the IS Website Progress report). Future progress reports will be compiled by the Communications Supervisor for the Communications Subcommittee.

Disaster Recovery

With the Christchurch earthquake focussing our minds onto topics such as disaster recovery and business continuity, it is worth mentioning the steps that the Information Services team take to ensure that key service recovery will be achieved as quickly, and with as little outage, as possible. We have a current Information Services Disaster Recovery Plan which is tested each year. As well as this, our data centre is supplied with generator backup power and redundant systems and storage to reduce the likelihood of one-off events bringing the council systems down.

We are also replacing key server and storage infrastructure which will be re-used at the District Library as a live online store for all of the key systems that we require. This means that even in the event of critical damage to the Main Office we should still be in a position to recover our systems in a matter of hours rather than days or weeks.

The changeover of the infrastructure is expected to be completed early in the second quarter of 2011.

Recommendation

That the Corporate Services Committee receives the Information Services Update – RFN10-11-03.

Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager