

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chair & Members, Corporate Services Committee

**FROM:** Peter Darlington  
Information Services Manager

**DATE:** 10 February 2011

**SUBJECT:** **Information Services Update Report – RFN11-02-02**

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## **Purpose**

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

## **Comment**

### **Broadband**

While we are still waiting on final announcements for the Ultra Fast Broadband (UFB) initiative, the Rural Broadband (RBI) tender has just been confirmed with the joint Telecom/Vodafone tender the winner. The solution is a mix of fibre and 3G mobile. There are pros and cons to this decision, it will be a safe rollout with much of the regional infrastructure already in place. It will deliver lower end connection speeds though (5 Mbps), and may limit ongoing competition that a third party solution such as OpenGate from Kordia and FX Networks would have brought to the rural broadband market.

A major positive for the Tasman District is that this should ensure fibre extension into Golden Bay as well as parts of Nelson Lakes and Murchison. The timing of this however, is still unknown. Telecom expects the contract negotiations to be over in a matter of weeks and the first rollout plans to start being released in late March 2011.

### **GIS Update**

Tasman and Nelson Councils launched their regional GIS Website system called Top of the South Maps in early December 2010. The site has been welcomed by local users and has been receiving approximately 150-200 unique visits per day with over 4,500 visits since launch. The project team from both councils are now in discussions for planned changes and additions to the site in 2011.

As well as this, the TDC GIS team are finalising the project plan for the upgrade of ExploreTasman. The system, which has been in place since 2001, will build on the look and feel of Top of the South Maps and add more functionality for accessing, viewing, editing and printing Council data and maps for staff.

## **Password Security Change**

Two important security changes have occurred in January 2011. The implementation of complex passwords at login to the network, and enforced screensaver when staff are away from their desks. These changes are in line with audit recommendations and recognise the need to minimise risks of unauthorised access and data loss.

The new complex passwords will be required at your next password change. If you have any issues trying to complete the change, please call the IS Helpdesk and they will assist you.

## **Long Term Plan Growth Model**

GIS and systems staff are playing leading roles in the development of the growth model for the Long Term Plan. The model has been upgraded from the previous spreadsheet based one into Council's database systems and is now available for all the project team members. More data is being added and work is being done to standardise and simplify the process for future versions. The growth model project is timetabled to run up to May 2011.

## **Upgrades to Council Systems**

There are several upgrades planned for Council Line of Business systems this year. These include;

- Beginning the process of upgrading PCs to Windows 7 operating system
- Upgrading the Council email server to the latest version
- Upgrading the branch office and remote access system to the latest version

We will also be reviewing Council database, backup and security systems later in the year.

## **Recommendation**

**That the Corporate Services Committee receives the Information Services report (RFN11-02-02).**

Peter Darlington  
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