

STAFF REPORT

TO: Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager

REFERENCE:

DATE: 10 March 2009

SUBJECT: Information Services Update Report

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

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

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

1. Yellowfin Reporting Tool

Yellowfin is now installed and the first stage of data table configuration is complete. Some basic reporting can now be done while NCS staff configure the system for further more advanced reporting in the future.

2. Regional Broadband

NREDA are still in discussions with Network Tasman Ltd over access to the fibre between Nelson and Marlborough. The outcomes from this discussion will influence the makeup of the Nelson/Richmond side of the network and the Nelson/Tasman councils connection to it. The outcomes from this discussion will also dictate what future resourcing and governance are required. As a result, the report to the Top of the South combined Mayors and Councillors meeting has been delayed again until the matter can be resolved.

A contract with Telstra Clear to provide a connection from Nelson to Wellington is in the process of being signed. This connection will open up the exchange to the outside world and allow external services to come into the region.

The incoming National government has closed down the previous government's Broadband Investment Fund (BIF) so applications such as the Riwaka to East Takaka fibre link are now off the agenda. We are still waiting for more information regarding the new government's plans for high speed fibre infrastructure including fibre to the home.

3. Telephone Software Upgrade

On Monday 2 March 2009 we upgraded our telephony software to bring us up to date with the latest version. This upgrade has a slightly different look and feel and provides minor changes in functionality.

4. Regional Civil Defence (CDEM) Application

Planning work has begun on the Regional CDEM application that is budgeted for in the 2009-2011 financial years budgets. A project team has been created that will define the user requirements for the application and review what is available and what other councils are doing.

The project team will report back through this committee and through the civil defence CEG group.

5. NZ Copyright Act Amendment Section 92a

This amendment was due to come into force at the end of February 2009 but has been extended to the end of March 2009 while a code of practice between the recording industry and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) is put in place. This amendment focuses on illegal downloaders and has caused some controversy because it proposes guilt upon accusation with little recourse to due process. The issue for Council and other corporates is that we will be seen as a network provider and could face losing our internet connections if we are accused of a breach.

Council has Internet appropriate use policies in place and uses filters to prevent the downloading of multimedia such as music and video onto our network, but we are still watching the passage of this bill with interest with regard to any new liability that it might open us up to.

6. New GIS Analyst – Terry O'Donnell

Terry started with us on 2 March 2009 and replaces Sam Drummond in the GIS team.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Information Services Manager's report dated 10 March 2009 be received.

Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager