

STAFF REPORT

TO: Corporate Services Committee

FROM: Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager

DATE: 17 November 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

Broadband Update

There have been some subtle changes to the government broadband initiative tender document released in October 2009. The Crown Fibre Holdings entity is now planning to lay all the 'mainstreet' fibre with the successful tenderers from Local Fibre Companies (LFCs) being expected to complete the last hop from street to household. The LFC will then buy a connection into the main fibre off Crown Fibre Holdings as each customer is connected. This is quite a clever approach as it means the LFC can control its costs versus new business take-up, rather than having to do heavy investment before any new business is generated. It does mean though, that LFCs will need to get their pricing model correct before taking on new customers or they could still find themselves heavily out of pocket.

Network Tasman Ltd is planning to tender for this region and in light of these developments have changed their strategy and are now willing to work with the Nelson Marlborough Inforegion to manage the exchange points themselves. This is a good result for Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency (NREDA) and the local councils as it removes the requirement for a retail entity to manage fibre customers. Tenders for the LFCs close in late January 2010 and TDC will be supporting Network Tasman's proposal.

TDC has also provided a submission to the Rural Broadband Initiative in October 2009, supporting the current model of public fibre investment in our region and calling for funding to extend fibre to all our rural schools and a further request for maximising extension to the associated local communities.

Finally, I have received an update from both Corus (Telecom NZ) and Network Tasman Ltd that they are working together on a joint project to connect fibre into Golden Bay between Riwaka and East Takaka. This may involve sharing trenching or even separate fibre pairs within a single cable but will be finalised as separate networks into the region. This means that from 2011/2012 Golden Bay will have both ultra fast broadband and competition for telecommunications services in the region.

GIS Update

Staff workshops for the future strategy were held during the week of 16-20 November 2009. It is expected that the strategy will be completed by Christmas 2009 with work beginning on the next version of Explore Tasman in January 2010.

GIS Staff have been working on the structure plans for Richmond East and any plan changes for the next update to the TRMP.

Website Update

The draft of the Website strategy has been completed and will be presented to council management on 30 November 2009.

Council Website staff are currently seeking feedback on which new services should be given priority and are beginning some initial development work. It is hoped that the development site will be under way in January 2010 for a launch of the new site in April 2010.

LiDAR update

Following a formal tender process, New Zealand Aerial Mapping Limited (NZAM) has been accepted as the preferred supplier of LiDAR services for the 2009/2010 financial year. Capture is focused on the Rural 3 area (abutting existing Richmond/Mapua-Ruby Bay/Motueka data), Pohara/Tata Beach (abutting existing Takaka data) and St Arnaud – a total of 105 sq km. If their service delivery is acceptable, which we are sure it will be, then NZAM have first rights to providing LiDAR services through to June 2012.

Delivery of data is expected in the middle of 2010.

Upgrade to Office 2007

Work on upgrading Council PCs to Office 2007 is well underway with the council secretaries, finance and new staff PCs already upgraded. Work will continue with retrospective upgrades into the first half of 2010. Work should be completed in the first quarter of the new financial year.

Please note that Councillors may use their TDC (@Tasman.govt.nz) email addresses to order a free copy of Microsoft Office 2007 (or 2010 as of June next year) as part of our volume license agreement with Microsoft New Zealand.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Information Services Update Report dated 17 November 2009 be received.

Peter Darlington
Information Services Manager