

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET MEMBER

PUBLIC SERVICES NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the implementation of a replacement PSN compliant IT network infrastructure
- 1.2 To identify the associated business benefits arising from the project's successful implementation.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Since 2012 the council has embarked on an ambitious programme of transformational IT projects that collectively help to deliver the vision set out in its IT and Digital strategy. The procurement and implementation of a modern data network forms a key strand of this programme.
- 2.2 The council's IT network infrastructure provides access to around 150 connected sites. This includes libraries, local links, outlying offices together with central buildings such as the Civic Centre. In addition to these the network also includes connectivity to 65 North Lincolnshire schools.
- 2.3 Over the summer of 2013 a procurement exercise for a replacement network infrastructure took place. The main business drivers for the procurement recognised the following identified needs:
 - redesign the network to provide a modern and more resilient platform removing single points of failure
 - put in place infrastructure which would enable effective working with partners, central government and local and regional bodies
 - provide enhanced business functionality such as video conferencing capabilities
 - achieve savings and reduce costs
 - renew the telecommunications contract upon its expiry
 - achieve PSN accreditation and align with government ICT strategy
 - upgrade schools/academy broadband connectivity at reduced costs
 - move to a managed service creating IT efficiencies
 - improve billing and general financial management.
 - assist with the centralisation of telecoms budgets
 - network security assurances that meet CESG recommendations
 - standardised approach to network security
- 2.4 To achieve these requirements a successful competitive procurement was undertaken and a new contract was awarded via the central government PSN framework to MDNX (now Easynet) for the provision of a managed network infrastructure.

- 2.5 After a thorough engagement process with schools, 65 contracts were successfully negotiated for the provision of broadband services. Specific benefits include:
- removal of the previous aggregated cost model for schools broadband
 - allows IT Services to offer bespoke contracts tailored to each school requirement
 - flexible contract enabling new technology and upgrades to be offered when available
 - onsite internet content filtering solutions which are tailored to each schools requirements
 - 24/7 managed broadband services
 - greater security than a standard broadband provider (PSN assurances)
- 2.6 During 2014/15 a new data infrastructure was implemented. All sites were successfully migrated across to the new network by end February 2015.
- 2.7 The Easynet PSN infrastructure contract is in place until 2019. Over this period regular review meetings will take place to monitor the contract and review our network deployment. Working with Easynet, we will ensure that we provide a resilient and secure network which meets the requirements of the council and its connected customers and partners.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are no options for consideration as this report is for information only.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 There are no options for consideration as this report is for information only.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The successful re-procurement of the network has delivered a cost reduction of c. £70k a year.
- 5.2 The removal of the previous aggregated broadband SLA, coupled with the network re-procurement and the termination of previous agreements delivered c. £500k a year in savings across schools in North Lincolnshire.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the outcomes and benefits arising from the successful completion of the PSN Infrastructure project are noted.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None