

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**6 May 2014**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**

**SCHOOLS EXTRANET**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval to the plans for the Schools' Extranet and approve the creation of an earmarked reserve to fund the one-off costs of these plans.

**2. Information and Analysis**

Since October 2012, the Schools' Extranet has been provided by Capita on the emPSN OpenHive platform. The current contract runs to October 2014.

A recent survey of schools has provided feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the current offering and this has led to four proposals for improvements:

- Confirmation that an extranet provides the main communication route between the Authority and schools.
- Review the current content on the site and ensure as much content as possible is available to all users to avoid unnecessary barriers to access.
- Increase the numbers of staff capable of uploading content to the extranet.
- Respond to the comments from schools by improving functionality, improving the search mechanism, redesigning the layout and setting up reports analysing web use.

The aim of these changes is to ensure the extranet meets the information needs of schools as the first port of call and reducing their reliance on Authority staff to provide information on a one-to-one basis.

Currently, the Authority is in the process of procuring a replacement for its web content management system – Tridion. The procurement is expected to be completed shortly and it is anticipated that transfer of the content of Derbyshire.gov.uk will be transferred from summer 2014. Once this transfer has

been completed, it will be possible to investigate the transfer of the extranet from Capita to this new platform.

It is therefore proposed that the existing Capita agreement for the Schools' Extranet is extended to August 2015 and that CAYA plans to explore moving the extranet to the Corporate Web content platform when it becomes available for departmental use.

In the interim, it is proposed to review the current extranet to both address the identified improvements above and to put it on a good footing in the event that it is moved to the Corporate platform. To undertake this work, it is proposed to appoint a Grade 12 Project Manager to the CAYA E-development team for the 1 year duration of this project.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

In addition to the Grade 12 identified above, the extension of the current arrangements to 31 October 2015 will incur additional licence costs for school users of £32,260. It is planned that the on-going costs of running the extranet will be recovered from schools via charges for services that the Authority provides whichever platform it ultimately resides on.

A further £5k is planned to be spent on training/consultancy from Capita to aid the Project Manager in making changes to the current structure and content.

Summary of anticipated costs of contract extension and development proposals:

Item	£
Grade 12 Project Manager – 1 year	45,000
Extension of licences for schools to 31/10/2015	32,260
Training/consultancy	5,000
Total	82,260

It is proposed to fund these costs from the CAYA earmarked reserve – PSA reward grant. As it is envisaged that this spend will be incurred over two financial years, it is proposed to establish an earmarked reserve to hold the allocated resources.

### **4. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, legal & human rights, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

### **5. Key Decision?**

No.

6. **Call-in** Is it necessary to waive the call-in period in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report?

No

7. **Background Papers** None.

8. **Officers' Recommendations**

That the plans for the Schools' Extranet are approved and that approval be given to establish an earmarked reserve to hold the resources allocated for this project.

**IAN THOMAS**  
**Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**