

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL SERVICES

7th July 2014

Report of the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources

SCHOOLS EXTRANET

1 Purpose of Report

To seek approval to register a domain name for the Schools' Extranet.

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, with the option to extend for a further two years.

A recent survey of schools has provided feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the current offering, leading to a number of proposals being approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Younger Adults on 6th May as follows:

- Confirmation that an extranet provides the main communication route between the Authority and schools.
- Agreement to 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.
- Agreement to 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.

As part of the final proposal, further consideration of the site domain name has taken place. The current web address of the site is <https://derbyshire.inthehive.net/> which does not provide any descriptive information about what the site is for and makes locating the site a test of memory (for example a google search using the terms 'derbyshire inthehive' does not easily locate the site in the first page of results).

It is therefore proposed to register a new domain name for the site of learninginderbyshire to coincide with the launch of a redesigned site. It is proposed to purchase a number of the top level site domains including:

- Learninginderbyshire.org
- Learninginderbyshire.org.uk
- Learninginderbyshire.net

On 4th November 2003 Cabinet determined that there would be no further acquisition of web domain names or deployment of websites by the council without specific Cabinet approval. This proposal was to ensure that where possible all Council content should be under www.derbyshire.gov.uk. However, in the case of the School's Extranet, the site is already hosted externally and is currently under a separate domain, therefore it is considered that the registration of the new domain name has no effect on Derbyshire.gov.uk.

3 Financial Considerations

Domain registration costs are in the region of £10 to £100 per year. Funding of £82,260 for the Schools' Extranet project was approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Younger Adults on 6th May 2014, which included £5,000 of contingency. It is proposed to use the contingency to fund the domain registration.

4 Other Considerations

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

There are no HR considerations within this report.

5 Background Papers

Held by Andy Callow in Children and Younger Adults.

6 Key Decision

No.

7 Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report?

No

8 OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

For the Cabinet Member to approve the registration of a domain name for the Schools' Extranet.

Judith Greenhalgh
Strategic Director of Corporate Resources