

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DERBYSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

17th October 2013

Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

Schools' Management Information System

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To:

- a) provide information about a future charge in relation to the Management Information System (MIS); and
- b) update Schools Forum on the procurement progress.

2. **Information and Analysis**

2.1. **Background**

The majority of schools in Derbyshire use a Management Information System (MIS) called Facility. All but three academies in the primary sector have their MIS provided through a contract negotiated and awarded by the Council. Two secondary sector schools also receive their Facility software through the Council contract via individual contract agreements.

Funding for secondary sector schools was delegated in 2008. Costs for primary sector schools are currently met from CAYA's budget and no additional charges are passed on.

On 19th June 2012 Schools Forum supported recommendations to procure a replacement MIS system and allocate funding to support the one-off transition costs.

2.2. **Change of Ownership**

In January 2013, the supplier of Facility (Serco Learning) was acquired by Advanced Learning Limited. At this time the Council's contract for Facility was transferred over to the new owner.

Following the change of ownership, the Council began contract extension negotiations with Advanced Learning to ensure that the existing solution was still available whilst the procurement of the new MIS took place. As part of these negotiations a price increase was agreed. The revised price still reflects good value for money compared with the wider market, particularly given the contribution from the central CAYA funding. From the market research conducted as part of the procurement work, it is clear that the costs of MIS systems have increased since the Council awarded the contract at a very favourable rate in 2005. An increase in costs is therefore extremely likely regardless of the replacement system that is re-procured.

2.3. Future Charges

As a result of the contract extension agreement, from 1st November 2013 the Council will be paying more for the MIS contract than the CAYA central budget provision. On 1st October 2013 Cabinet approved that the additional charges be funded by the Council until 31st August 2014. Thereafter, the difference in the charges will need to be passed onto schools. Schools impacted will be sent a letter later this year, detailing the proposed additional charges to be applied from 1st September 2014.

Examples of estimated charges for maintained schools are shown in the table below. The charging model will be based on a block amount per school plus a per pupil element, typical costs are estimated as follows:

Number on Roll	Estimated Additional Recharge Range
50	£150-£200
100	£200 - £300
200	£350 - £500

2.4. Procurement Update

The procurement documentation is nearing completion, ready to publish and invite tenders. It may be recalled that during 2011, consultation with schools began about their needs for a replacement system. This led to a school stakeholder group being established, which has helped develop a detailed requirements specification. It is anticipated that the tender exercise will conclude in summer 2014 and then a transition period of 12-18 months will be required for all Facility schools to be migrated to the new solution. The school stakeholder group will continue to be involved in the evaluation of the potential solutions, including detailed usability sessions, which will be scored and used to inform the decision making process.

Further updates will be provided through the Extranet and to Schools Forum as the procurement exercise progresses.

3. Strategic Director's Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to note:

- a) that additional MIS charges will be passed onto schools from 1st September 2014; and
- b) the update on the procurement process.