

REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	25 th January 2012
SUBJECT:	emPSN – School Broadband
REPORT BY:	Debbie Barnes
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Alan Mackenzie
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	07880 788094
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	alan.mackenzie@lincolnshire.gov.uk
IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

1. Kcom was announced as the winning integrated (Lot 1A core) provider in November 2011. Bidder evaluation was based on price and quality. Each LA will individually enter into contract with emPSN as local circumstances allow, i.e. tying up legal loose ends, finalising pricing etc;
2. All bidders were approved for entry onto the broadband provision (Lot 1C) and services (Lot 2) frameworks;
3. Lincolnshire corporate and schools will be first to transition onto the new network. This is because the corporate BT contract comes to an end in June 2012. Detailed project plan has not yet been raised so it is not yet possible to indicate to schools when they will transition, however the aspiration is from the end of June through the summer holidays;
4. Local detailed planning is now starting to take place with the LCC project manager who was appointed and began working 16th Jan. He will be fully engaged meeting stakeholders, getting up to speed with the tender and project, and drafting project documents including the communications plan to ensure that school engagement is appropriate;

5. One to one fine tuning is continuing with Kcom in relation to wide area network design and finalising pricing. Indicative pricing for each school is known, however network design across the corporate and schools estates will mean small pricing fluctuations, e.g. unbundling BT exchanges to further improve service and provide new technology opportunities for “difficult to reach” schools;
6. All schools will be required to become a member of the company. A detailed school engagement letter will be sent to all schools week commencing 23rd Jan which will explain this further, along with a letter of consent from the Local Authority as required by s11 of the Education Act 2002. This letter will also contain the governance structure in relation to schools membership;
7. To bring schools fully up to date with the emPSN project we will be hosting school engagement days with Kcom in attendance as follows:

Hemswell Court – 27 Feb 1000-1200 (Headteachers/SLT/Governors)
New Life Centre, Sleaford – 1000-1200 (school technical staff and ICT providers)
South Holland Centre – 9th Mar 1400-1600 (Headteachers/SLT/Governors).
8. These dates/venues will be included in the above letter so that all schools are aware.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Forum is asked to note the content of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.