

Report

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Report to:	Finance and Information Technology Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources)

Subject:	National Scrutiny Portal
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ Advise the role of South Lanarkshire Council in the development of a Scrutiny Portal for Scotland.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that South Lanarkshire Council takes the lead role in the development of a Scrutiny Portal for Scotland
- (2) that the budget cost for the development of £100,000 be noted
- (3) that the arrangements to recover the costs from other participants be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Following the report by Professor Lorne Crerar into reducing the burden of scrutiny on the public sector, Solace formed a working group to review the implications.
- 3.2. The Chief Executive was a member of this group that involved the scrutiny agencies and was chaired by the Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross.
- 3.3. The Chief Executive felt there was a potential solution that could be made available to all Councils and Scrutiny bodies and a “proof of concept” development was undertaken within Finance and Information Technology Resources, IT Services.
- 3.4. Assistance in the verification of the approach was given by the Care Commission.
- 3.5. A portal was developed and presented to Solace at their meeting on 25 September 2009.
- 3.6. A portal is a single point of entry to a store of data/information relating to a particular subject. A set of information would be made available in one place for all councils that could be accessed by all scrutiny bodies. This would reduce their burden carrying out inspections and each council would have a single source of information.
- 3.6. An offer was made to the members of Solace that South Lanarkshire Council would be willing to develop the solution to a live version but additional resources would be required.

- 3.7. A letter was sent to all Chief Executives outlining the costs and asking for “sign up”.
- 3.8. To date the following Councils have agreed to participate.
- Aberdeen City
 - Angus
 - Argyll and Bute
 - Dumfries and Galloway
 - Dundee City
 - East Renfrewshire
 - Highland
 - Inverclyde
 - Moray
 - North Ayrshire
 - Perth and Kinross
 - Renfrewshire
 - South Ayrshire
 - South Lanarkshire
 - Stirling.
- 3.9. Efforts will be made to encourage the 11 councils who have yet to reply to participate.
- 3.10. Resources will be required for the development of the agreed business requirements and a mini tender will be undertaken to procure these.
- 3.11. It is planned to carry the information on the National Infrastructure at the SLC data centre thus avoiding additional costs and utilising the connections to all 32 Councils.
- 4. Project Timescales**
- 4.1. At present it is anticipated that the system will be live by November 2010.
- 5. Employee Implications**
- 5.1. As indicated at 3.10, IT Services has no available resource allocated to this work. It is planned to use an external resource to carry out the business analysis tasks with the participants.
- 5.2. These additional resources will be utilised following the tender and there will be ongoing supervision and direction from IT Services.
- 6. Financial Implications**
- 6.1. A budget of £100,000 has been set and the councils involved will contribute according to population. This initial cost will be offset by member councils with the balance being funded from Finance and Information Technology Resources underspending.
- 6.2. Once the system is in production an annual subscription will be charged to cover the ongoing costs.
- 7. Other Implications**
- 7.1. None.
- 8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 8.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

- 8.2. There is no requirement to undertake further consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Linda Hardie

Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources)

14 December 2009

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- ♦ Value: Accountable, Effective and Efficient

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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