

Report

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Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 November 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Information Communications Technology (ICT) Leasing Pilot - Calderglen High School, East Kilbride
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ outline proposals for a pilot project to lease Information Communications Technology (ICT) equipment to pupils in Calderglen High School, East Kilbride.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the pilot to lease ICT equipment to pupils in Calderglen High School, East Kilbride be approved; and
- (2) that, following an interim evaluation over a period of 6 months and providing that the pilot progresses well at Calderglen High School, consideration be given to the lease programme being rolled out to other Learning Communities.

3. Background

3.1. The Council and school establishments are fully committed to the development of ICT in learning and pupils currently have access to over 400 computers within Calderglen High School. However, it is recognised that there is a continual need to explore the best ways of using ICT for learning and how education can connect with young people's lifestyles. The pilot programme will enable pupils to have access to net book computers in all areas of their learning during the school day and beyond.

3.2. In September 2011, the "Technologies for Learning Strategy" was launched with five main objectives. The first objective is to change the culture of the use of ICT. The Strategy describes the main challenge as a cultural one which requires the gap to be bridged between home, school and the community by supporting responsible online behaviours. Furthermore, the Strategy encourages close alignment in the use of ICT in schools with the use of technology outside of schools. Pupil leasing schemes have recently been introduced at schools within the UK.

3.3. The proposed pilot project will enable pupils, using the same device within and outwith the school, to have access to learning materials. This is a significant cultural shift from what is currently available within South Lanarkshire schools and it is recognised that the effectiveness of learning will be influenced by pupils accepting responsibility for the ownership and use of ICT equipment and learning from each other.

4. Pilot Project Detail

- 4.1. A pilot 2 year leasing scheme to assess the use of ICT equipment by pupils is proposed to start in Calderglen High School in session 2011/2012. Around 60 devices will be leased by pupils in S1 which could be expanded depending on parental uptake. The devices will be RM net books. Pupils who choose not to be part of the pilot will have no diminution in service as they will continue to have access to ICT facilities in the school for learning.
- 4.2. The lease period will be for 2 years, after which, the pupil can choose to purchase the device. Each device will come with anti-virus software, a warranty and 2 years' insurance cover. For the pilot, the school will provide Microsoft Office licences which will be funded from savings within the current RM contract.
- 4.3. Feedback on the administration and support implications and the learning benefits will be collated over that 2 year period. The school has consulted with the Parent Council and with individual parents and welcomes the opportunity to take part in this exciting initiative designed to support and enhance the learning needs of young people.
- 4.4. The e-Learning Foundation is a charity which works with agencies to ensure that all children have access to learning technologies where and when they need them, both at school and at home. This charity will administer the collection of donations from parents. The Foundation is used in a number of similar schemes in England and is funded via Gift Aid from parental donations.

5. Pilot Evaluation

- 5.1. The evaluation of the pilot will include the assessment of the following areas:
 - Increased use between home and school by pupils which enhances the opportunity for flexible learning.
 - Improving pupils' ICT skills to support and develop independent learning through increased access to online resources including Glow.
 - Best value for parents - no VAT payment due to donations classification.
 - Full support for parents and pupils will be provided by the school, RM, Finance and Corporate Resources and Education Resources.
 - Insurance cover for the device for a period of 2 years to cover theft and accidental damage, including replacement or repair.
 - The devices are fit for purpose and will work effectively in the school environment.
 - Participation in a fully evaluated programme. The school have procedures in place to monitor use and to measure attainment and achievement over the course of the pilot.
- 5.2. The pilot will evaluate options for the purchase of ICT net books by the school which could provide an ICT equipment loan service for identified pupils. In addition, for those homes without access to the internet, alternative locations will be identified for the use of ICT equipment as part of the evaluation.
- 5.3. The evaluation will be ongoing throughout the 2 year period. However, after an interim evaluation period of 6 months, consideration will be given to the lease programme being rolled out to other learning communities.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. There are no employee implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. The Council will purchase the netbooks from its managed service provider and the associated costs will be recovered through parental contributions for families who opt into the lease scheme.

7.2. The cost and income for the 2 year period of the pilot is noted below:

	SLC Cost	Income
Net Books Purchase (£339.19 each x 60)	£20,351.40	
e-Learning Foundation Collection Service	£5,086.80	
Parental Donation (£15 per month)		£21,600
Maximum Value of Gift Aid Rebates		£5,400
TOTAL	£25,438.20	£27,000

8. Other Implications

8.1. The Quality Improvement Service will provide support to school staff, parents and pupils during the course of the pilot on making best use of the investment and trying to ensure that the outcome objectives are achieved.

8.2. Risk issues around the roll-out of the pilot leasing scheme have been considered and actions have been taken to mitigate against these. Risk and quality improvement issues will continue to be monitored through the period of the pilot.

8.3. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained in this report at this time.

9.2. Consultation has taken place with the headteacher, staff and Parent Council of Calderglen High School and with other partners.

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

3 November 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Raise educational attainment for all

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:-

Sara Fellows, Head of Education (Resources)

Ext: 2066 (Tel: 01698 452066)

E-mail: sara.fellows@southlanarkshire.gov.uk