



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet

2 November 2010
8 November 2010

ICT provision in Leicester to support pupil learning & implementation of pilot Netbook loan scheme for City pupils

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report updates Committee on the current levels of ICT equipment available to Children in Leicester City Primary Schools, the uptake of the National Home Access Scheme in City households and seeks approval for the immediate implementation of a pilot Netbook loan scheme for pupils in five City schools.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment upon the current level and nature of provision in City establishments/ homes and the proposed pilot Netbook Loan Scheme in 5 City Primary Schools.
- 2.2 Cabinet is recommended to agree the implementation of the pilot Netbook loan scheme as detailed in the accompanying report.

Report

3. Summary of current ICT availability for Leicester Primary school children

- 3.1 There are 25,843 children currently in city maintained primary schools. All Primary Children currently have access to computers with safe and secure internet provision. These are provided from the following sites:

- All City Primary Schools
- Two City Learning Centres
- Four Study Support Centres
- All Leicester City Libraries

In addition to the above

- All Children's homes have access to the internet and each home has 5/6 devices mixed between desktops and laptops.

- 210 Looked After Children received grant packages that enables them to have their own personal laptop with internet connectivity.
- 2691 Leicester City families have benefited from the National Home Access scheme – which provides a grant to families with children aged 7 -14 on low incomes to buy their own computer and internet provision. From the figures available 1720 families have stated the main user will be a primary school child. 39 households have been provided with assistive technology to assist children with special educational needs. This scheme has been actively promoted by the City Council and take up is amongst the best nationally.
- Schools have enriched their provision by providing Interactive Whiteboards, Visualisers, Nintendos, Wii and iTouches.
- The majority of primary schools run lunch time and after school clubs giving children, and in some cases, families access to ICT out of hours.
- The Two City Learning Centres also provide enhanced ICT equipment (e.g. design technologies) and Loan Project boxes such as sets of Nintendos and I touches specifically for primary schools

3.2 A consortium of East Midlands Local Authorities (embc) provides safe, secure and resilient connection to the internet for all Leicester schools and each school is supported by the council with advice and guidance to develop the use of ICT.

3.3 In the 2010/11 budget, the Council agreed to invest £630,000 over three years to increase access to laptops for every primary school child. Given that this decision was prior to the announcement of the National Home Access scheme which has itself increased investment in ICT in the city by approximately £1.4m and enabled 2691 low income families to purchase their own Laptop and there has been a significant change in funding at a national level, it is now prudent to re examine options for deployment of these resources.

4. **Proposed implementation of pilot Netbook Loan Scheme**

4.1 Following budget decisions at Cabinet on 16 August 2010 it is now proposed to implement a netbook loan scheme in a small number of targeted schools. This will provide for up to 30 netbooks with usb internet access dongles to be available to five targeted schools to be loaned to pupils aged 7-10 years old, over a period of 3 years. These pupils are most likely to benefit from this initiative and be able to practically handle equipment with minimum risk. Administering this scheme from schools provides the most secure model to ensure physical security and control of assets. This will also facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of learning outcomes and effectiveness of this pilot. Details of the equipment and support to be provided is detailed in **Appendix A**.

4.2 In addition to the provision within the pilot schools it is proposed to provide every family with primary aged children within the City with free access to Cyber sentinel for a period of 18 months. Cyber Sentinel is a leading market web security product that will help promote safe surfing and safeguarding in home environments where children may currently have unrestricted and potentially unsafe access.

4.3 Technical support will also be provided to each participating school to ensure all loan units are clean and contain no personal data or inappropriate content from a previous loan.

4.4 Pilot schools have been identified through an iterative process involving systematic consideration of deprivation levels, prior educational attainment, educational progress, prior

and planned capital investment and, finally, consideration of schools below floor target and subject to intensive support.

4.5 As a result of the above process it is proposed to pilot this provision in the following schools.

School	Ward	Notes
Woodstock Primary	Abbey	School previously in category and record of performing below floor target
Caldecote Community Primary	Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields	More than 25% of cohort resides in top 5% most deprived super output area. School performing below floor target
Merrydale Junior	Charnwood	More than 25% of cohort resides in top 5% most deprived super output area
Knighton Fields Primary	Freeman	School previously in category and record of performing below floor target
Hazel Primary	Castle	School previously in category and record of performing below floor target

4.6 In determining pilot schools, officers have determined that it is important to make sure that schools that have not had significant investment for some time, or have no immediate planned investment, are prioritised to ensure a fair and equitable sharing of resource across the City.

4.7 For the purposes of this exercise officers have considered the allocation of Primary Capital Programme funds from the Department For Education (which in some instances has included up to £50k for ICT equipment and infrastructure); Mobile Classroom Replacement and Kitchen Capital monies. Having taken this into account Officers have then focused upon reviewing the adequacy of progress made by individual pupils/ school category (benchmark performance) and this has informed the final selection.

4.8 Each of the schools identified has action plans to improve learning and raise achievement but faces significant challenges in doing so. It is proposed to link the allocation of netbooks to local authority intensive support packages for pupils. This will help ensure that this investment contributes to tangible improvements in educational outcomes. These plans will be supported and monitored through Learning Services.

4.9 It is proposed to provide each pilot school with 30 internet enabled netbooks and associated software and support as detailed in **Appendix A**. A number of units will also be ordered to provide additional capacity and resilience. The cost of providing Cyber Sentinel to all families of school aged children in City Schools is also detailed in **Appendix A**. Provision has been made within the General Fund account to support this programme in 2010/11.

4.10 Contextual data on deprivation and pupil performance is provided at **Appendix B**. Further information is available on request.

5 FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

The Council's 2010/11 General Fund Revenue Budget included £530,000 for the introduction of this initiative, with a forward provision of £50,000 in each of 2011/12 and 2012/13 (a total of £630,000). As part of the Council's response to in-year funding cuts by the Government, and taking into account the success locally of the National Home Access Scheme, Cabinet on the 16 August 2010 reduced the funding provision in 2010/11 to £300,000. The revised three-year total (assuming that £50,000 remains available in each of 2011/12 and 2012/13) is therefore £400,000. The updated proposals presented in this report are estimated to cost £370,278 over the three years and are, therefore, within the revised budget.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, Investing in our Children ext: 29 7750

5.2 Legal Implications

The power to achieve the aims identified in this paper is rooted in the Council's statutory "well being" powers derived from section 2 Local Government Act 2000. The statutory scheme has the following requirements and freedoms which are pertinent in this case:

1. It empowers the Council to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve any one or more of the following objects...

- a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of their area;
- b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of their area

2. The power above may be exercised in relation to or for the benefit of

- a) the whole or any part of a local authority's area, or
- b) all or any persons resident or present in a local authority's area

3. The power includes power for a local authority to

- a) incur expenditure,
- b) give financial assistance to any person,
- c) enter into arrangements or agreements with any person,
- d) co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of, any person,
- e) exercise on behalf of any person any functions of that person, and
- f) provide staff, goods, services or accommodation to any person

4. In determining whether or how to exercise the power a local authority must have regard to its published Community Strategy.

5. The power cannot be exercised in contravention of any other enactment which limits, restricts or prohibits that power, and neither can it be used to raise money.

The purchasing of the range of hardware and of the service contracts identified in the report will need to comply with the Councils procurement and contracting rules, about which specific legal advice will need to be sought.

(Kamal Adatia, Barrister, ext 7044)

5.3 Climate Change Implications

The procurement and use of laptops, as outlined in this report, will result in an increase in carbon emissions. The specified netbooks conform with Energy Star standards however, those setting up the netbooks and installing software should be required to ensure that the energy saving features are enabled and running at the optimum level. In addition, the users (pupils and their parents) should be provided with clear information on ways to save energy when using the netbooks such as ensuring computers are not left idling and chargers are not left plugged in - this is beneficial not just in saving carbon but in ensuring families do not face increases in their electricity bills. A laptop charger plugged in 24hrs a day for 365 days uses 973kw/h per computer which would cost around £97.30; for 160 laptops this equates to 64 tonnes CO₂.

(Helen Lansdown, Senior Environmental Consultant, ext 29 6770)

6 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/ NO	Paragraph/References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	X	The proposed pilot programme seeks to target pupils and schools in greatest need and makes a clear contribution to narrowing the gap.
Policy	X	Implements a commitment within One Leicester
Sustainable and Environmental		N/A
Crime and Disorder	X	The provision of Cyber Sentinel to every family in the City as described in the report is a significant contribution to combating cyber abuse, promoting safeguarding and championing the Council's role as Corporate Parent.
Human Rights Act		N/A
Elderly/People on Low Income	X	This proposal is targeted on those in greatest need. This strategy also complements the National Home Access Initiative for low income families.
Corporate Parenting	X	The provision of Cyber Sentinel to every family in the City as described in the report is a significant contribution to combating cyber abuse and evidences strong corporate parenting. It seeks to promote a home safeguarding culture.
Health Inequalities Impact		N/A

7 Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/appropriate)
1 Netbook units will be subject to theft and misuse	M	H	<p>Advice has been sought from Risk Management on appropriate management strategies and insurance covers. Costings are contained within Appendix A.</p> <p>Provision of appropriate on board security software and technician support will ensure that units are “clean” and abuse identified and addressed.</p> <p>Participating parents will be required to sign an undertaking about appropriate use and misuse.</p>
2 Netbooks will place young people at increased risk of assault or physical harm	M	H	<p>Consideration will be given to ensuring loans take place in a controlled manner and practical parental support engaged where possible.</p> <p>Pupils will be provided with advice on personal safety and instruction on safe use.</p>

8 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

8.1 None that require citation.

9 Consultations

9.1 None.

10 Report Author

Trevor Pringle

Divisional Director

Planning & Commissioning

Appendix A

Netbooks for Primary School Children in pilot schools

3 Year Cost Estimate

Item	Technical Specification	Number	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Netbook	Toshiba NB250-10G Netbook Intel Atom N450 1.66GHz Processor 1GB DDR2 Memory 160GB SATA Interface Hard Drive 2 in 1 Card Reader 10.1 inch Display 1024 x 600, WSVGA Integrated Web Camera 0.3 MegaPixel 10/100 Internal LAN RJ-45 connector Windows 7 Starter Edition Wireless LAN 802.11bg upto 54Mbps	160	£255	£40,800
Warranty	Toshiba International Warranty 1 to 3 Years for Netbooks	160	£20	£3,168
Lapjacket	Lapjacket with LCC security marking	160	£8	£1,355
Laptop Bag	Targus Essential Notebook Backpack	160	£14	£2,178
USB Stick	Integral 2GB USB Key	160	£5	£827
T-Mobile dongles	USB Modem (Setup including 36 months connectivity)	160	£761	£121,800
Software	Microsoft Office Professional 2007	160	£34	£5,458
	Anti Virus for 3 years	160	£5	£800
	Parent Control	160	£10	£1,536
Total Cost per device		160	£1,112	£177,922
LapCabby	LapCabby 32 Port Blue Trolley	5	£785	£3,927
Parental Control	Hosting of Parental Control 3 years	1	£9,700	£9,700
Insurance Underwriting	Cost per year + underwriting	3	£1,500	£4,500
Technical support	Technical support and setup Year 1	1	£35,000	£35,000
	Year 2 and Year 3	2	£35,000	£70,000
Cyber Sentinel for all City Children and Young People	Cost of Cyber Sentinel for all City Children This would give 18 months free access for parents and carers in the city	1	£46,229	£46,229
Project Support to roll out the scheme	Three months' support	1	£15,000	£15,000
Contingency	Project contingency	1	£8,000	£8,000
Total cost of the scheme				£370,278

APPENDIX B

Pupil attainment and deprivation

There are 25,843 children currently in city maintained primary schools (January 2010).

There are 10,059 children in year 3,4 or 5 (7 to 10 year olds) who live in the city. Of these 2679 children did not achieve L2 or better in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of year 2 when they were 7 years old.

There are 1744 children who live in areas of the city that are amongst the 5% most deprived nationally.

Of the children who live in these deprived areas 620 of them did not achieve L2 or better in reading, writing and mathematics.

These children attend 65 different schools, 576 of them attend 54 different city maintained primary schools. A further 12 are maintained in special school day provision. 22 attend the Samworth Academy, 3 attend county schools. 1 is at a residential special school and 6 children attend independent schools.

These children live in the following wards:

WARD	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	TOTAL
Abbey	3	9	4	16
Beaumont Leys	23	23	28	74
Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	51	30	35	116
Charnwood	13	8	17	38
Coleman	10	14	14	38
Freemen	30	35	18	83
Latimer	1	3	1	5
New Parks	19	26	28	73
Spinney Hills	44	50	53	147
Stoneygate	10	9	11	30
Grand Total	204	207	209	620
Bold text indicates ward contains school identified to take part in Netbook pilot programme				

Numbers of current children in target pilot schools with low prior attainment living in deprived areas

Proposed pilot school	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	TOTAL
Caldecote Community Primary School	7	1	9	17
Woodstock Primary School	2	5	5	12
Knighton Fields Primary School	4		1	5
Hazel Community Primary School			1	1
Merrydale Junior				

Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)