

Strand B Paper 2/2007

WIDER E-GOVERNMENT ISSUES

1 Common ICT Infrastructure

1.1 Network Infrastructure

Following meeting with NIRAN (NI Regional Area Networking, high-speed network infrastructure which underlies the further education sector across the UK) and IT Officers Group representative on 10 October 2007, it was agreed that IT Officers would seek to identify some suitable pilot Councils. We would then approach NIRAN for costs for pilots and look at potential pilot implementation. Further meeting due on 27 November 2007

1.2 Microsoft

North Down liaising with Microsoft on the potential for pilot exploration of best practice applications.

Recently attended event on Microsoft Unified Communications. Meeting planned with Microsoft on 19 November 2007 to start to explore potentials for Local Gov, and perhaps an event.

1.3 Local Authority Customer Relationship Management (LA CRM)

Antrim are hosting a major customer service and Customer Relationship Management event on 30 November 2007.

Further event with APSE on "Concentrating on Customer Services" scheduled for 13 December 2007 at the Ramada Hotel, Belfast.

2 Procurement

2.1 Procurement professionals group

Lorcan O'Kane and Damien Dean of Local Gov Reform are conducting an initial review of current procurement arrangements and systems used in Local Government looking at the potential for a more common approach to purchasing to maximise Local Government buying power and savings. Savings of 20-30% are generally recognized as possible

in this area. Meeting with Local Gov procurement professionals group scheduled for 8 November 2007 to look at relevant issues and Centre of Excellence possibilities.

2.2 E-Procurement

Potential for event in January 2007 on e-procurement system used in Newry and Mourne is being explored.

3 EU/ERNACT

Discussing potential for Interreg funding applications and other applications through ERNACT. Discussions ongoing on the potential for a major project (and resourcing) on multi-channel service delivery. Further meeting scheduled for 7 November 2007 with ERNACT, Fujitsu and Derry and Donegal Councils.

4 NI Direct

DID have agreed to a meeting to discuss Local Gov and NI Direct on 20 November 2007. Membership of Local Gov delegation to be finalized.

5 Shared Services Consultancy Terms of Reference

These are still being worked on. This is a complex area and more time is required to produce the best possible terms of reference. Suggest we clear by correspondence within the Sub-Group, but will need to issue it for consultation to all Councils and relevant groups (eg ALGFO, PPMA, IT Officers etc).

6 LGCSB

Further exploratory meetings to be arranged.

Local Government Reform Division

5 November 2007