

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chair and Members, Corporate Services Committee

**FROM:** Information Services Manager

**DATE:** 31 March 2011

**SUBJECT:** **Information Services Update Report**  
**- RFN11-04-09**

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## **Purpose**

To update the Corporate Services Committee on the latest activity and projects in the Information Services Section.

## **Comment**

### **Broadband**

More information is coming out from Crown Fibre Holdings regarding retail offerings for the new Ultrafast Broadband (UFB) network. Early indications are that the service will be 30 Megabits download, 15 Megabits upload at its most basic (retailing for approximately \$49.95 + data per month) going up to a 100 Megabit download, 50 Megabit upload service at its most expensive. The new service is based on a technology called GPON (Gigabit Passive Optical Network) which is the cheaper of the high speed fibre network options and still prone to weaknesses such as contention (networks slowing up when busy) and asynchronous speeds (faster download than up) that can inhibit services such as good quality videoconferencing. This is at the lower end of what was hoped for the new UFB network but may be an indication of what is believed to be affordable in the current economic climate. Confirmation of the service details will take place between now and June 2011. No information has been released on regional tender winners or an implementation timeline at this stage.

The Telecom Users Association of New Zealand (TUANZ) posed questions that local communities should be asking Telecom & Vodafone regarding their rural broadband solution that won the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) tender in January 2011. These questions pursue how open the new network will be, and what guaranteed speeds will be confirmed for rural schools and communities. Council staff will be pursuing these questions through the Regional Stakeholders Group meetings coming up.

### **GIS Update**

I am pleased to report that Council's Website mapping system, Top of the South Maps has won the Local Government GIS Project of the Year award for 2011. There were three finalists and our project was the winner due to:

1. its benefits to the whole of the Nelson and Tasman communities,
2. its use of local solutions such as Network Tasman fibre and SNAP data services, and
3. the excellent project management and resource sharing between the two councils to ensure the project was a success. The project team was made up of six Tasman District Council Information Services and Communications staff, and five Nelson City Council staff.

The new version of ExploreTasman is about to go into development. Project scoping has been taking place in recent weeks and the development phase will take place from April through to mid-May 2011. A test version of the system should be available for staff and interested parties in early May 2011.

### **Upgrades to Council Systems**

We have developed an Online Employment Application form that will allow users to apply for Council job vacancies online. This will help to make the process more efficient and ensure that the correct information is captured upon application. The process went live in early March 2011.

An extra screen and projector is being installed into the Council Chamber in April 2011 to improve the quality of visual presentations.

### **Recommendation**

**That the Corporate Services Committee receives report RFN11-04-09 Information Services Report.**

Peter Darlington  
Information Services Manager