

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
9 JUNE 2010**

SUBJECT: ICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SCHOOLS

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee about the ICT Development Plan for Schools and for Committee to scrutinise and note the contents of the report.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The purpose of the plan is to improve the ratio of modern curricular computers to pupils in schools. In Moray the definition of a modern curricular computer is one which is 5 year old or newer and is used for learning and teaching as opposed to solely administrative use.
- 3.2 The Moray Council ICT Section took responsibility for provision and support of the schools' ICT estate in August 2008. The estate at that time consisted of a large proportion of computers (over 1000) which were approaching 9 years old and the rest (over 1000) had been replaced during a refresh of equipment in 2004. During the refresh all of the older machines were upgraded with sufficient memory (minimum of 256Mb) to support the software upgrade which also took place at that time. There were a few newer PCs which had been bought by schools with DSM funding.
- 3.3 With Moray Council ICT Section taking the responsibility for schools' ICT in 2008, an ICT Strategy Group was set up with membership from primary schools, secondary schools, unions, central staff and the ICT Section. The purpose of the ICT Strategy Group is to:

- Review and guide ICT strategy for Moray Educational Establishments
- Make decisions about priorities and proposals
- Make proposals for development and innovation
- Consult about ICT issues

Alongside these aims, the overall vision for ICT in Moray's schools is to provide equity in terms of access to ICT facilities for the pupils in our schools.

- 3.4 Moray's target computer : pupil ratio is currently 1:5 in secondary schools and 1:7.5 in primary schools. These ratios have been guided by previous non-mandatory government ratios. With the current funding and replacement plan, these ratios will be reached in the financial year 2011/2012. All replacement equipment is purchased through the national procurement contract which is renewed annually so progress towards the ratios is dependent on the costs negotiated nationally.
- 3.5 The PCs which are being replaced are examined by Moray Council ICT Section. When in suitable condition, PCs are retained as spares to support the existing older machines and memory from these PCs is being used to upgrade retained PCs where appropriate. Disposal of PCs is done through the same contract as is in place for corporate computer equipment.
- 3.6 The PC replacement programme in schools is a 5 year programme. We are starting year 3 of this programme. Each year each school has 20% of their target PC ratio provision replaced in order to ensure equity across schools.
- 3.7 In order to improve pupil access to ICT resources more quickly the ICT Strategy Group has agreed to a pilot of the use of netbooks (smaller laptops which are cheaper than PCs or laptops) and can provide a very flexible portable access to pupils.
- 3.8 The need for access to ICT equipment in schools is constantly increasing. The introduction of GLOW, formerly called the Scottish Schools' Digital Network, which enables pupils to collaborate and communicate across the country and to access digital resources, is a key driver for improved ICT facilities. With the introduction of SEEMIS as the Management Information System for schools comes the need for staff access in classrooms in order to take attendance, track pupil progress and report to parents.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The use of ICT within learning and teaching are closely aligned to the education functions within the Single Outcome Agreement and links directly to Action Plan 15 in the Educational Services' Improvement Plan.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal implications

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The ICT Section Capital budget core programme allocation of £877,000 was approved by the Moray Council on 11 February 2010. £272,000 of this relates to PC replacement in schools.

(d) Consultations

Senior Officers within Educational Services, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant and Legal have been consulted and are in agreement with the relevant sections of the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.

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Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services
Committee/9 June 2010/ICT Development Plan for Schools