

CABINET	Paper No. 16
Meeting date: 28 November 2006	
From: Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Corporate Director – Children's Services	

CUMBRIA AND LANCASHIRE EDUCATION ON-LINE (CLEO) – CONTRACT EXTENSION

SECTION A: RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET MEMBER

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval is sought for Cumbria County Council to extend the existing Services Agreement dated July 2004 between Lancashire County Council, Cumbria County Council, University of Lancaster and Lancaster University Network Services Limited which is due to expire in February 2008 for a two year period to February 2010.

2.0 POLICY POSITION, BUDGETARY AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS AND LINKS TO CORPORATE STRATEGY

- 2.1** *This is an essential part of the Governments strategy to build a national education network and develop e-learning. This also supports the strategic objective 2: Delivering an efficient & effective service within available financial resources and strategic objective 3: Maximise children and young people's development within the 5 Outcome areas.*
- 2.2** *The Resource Charge paid annually to Lancaster University Network Services is currently £1,530,934. This would be increased in line with the Computer Economic Limited (CEL) index. Funding is known until August 2008 and should future funding not be available or the project became unsustainable there is provision for early termination in the contract.*
- 2.3** *The development of national education network will open up opportunities for pupils and teachers to access a wealth of materials to support teaching and learning. CLEO are already using the network to provide a range of teaching materials including on-line teaching*

materials and the use of video conferencing to enable students to access information and go on virtual visits to museums, libraries and other useful sites. The development of the network will also enhance collaborative working between schools. The development of virtual learning environments and personal on-line learning spaces will allow anywhere anytime access for pupils and teachers.

One issue in relation to accessibility is that of the “digital divide” this is the term used to describe the problem of people not having access to the internet from home. This problem is normally associated with families living in deprived areas. This is an issue which the government is trying to address and there are a number of projects to provide access to disadvantaged families.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the extension of the existing Services Agreement for two years from February 2008 to enable Lancaster University Network Services Limited to provide broadband services to schools in the Cumbria and Lancashire administrative areas be approved.

Philip Chapelhow
Cabinet Member for Children’s Services

SECTION B: **ADVICE OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Lancashire County Council is the contracting and accountable authority for Cumbria and Lancashire Education On Line (CLEO), which is one of ten English Regional Broadband Consortia jointly funded by the Department for Education and Skills and Lancashire and Cumbria County Councils under the ICT in Schools Standards Fund Grant - 121 Connectivity and Learning Systems. In July 2004 Lancashire County Council entered into a forty four month contract with Cumbria County Council, Lancaster University and Lancaster University Network Services to enable the expansion and support of the existing Cumbria and Lancashire Education On Line (CLEO) network.

The existing agreement states in relation to extending the initial term that the contract may be extended by the Councils serving written notice of no less than 12 months notice. The contract is due to expire in February 2008. The extension would extend the term to February 2010.

The Services Agreement includes the payment of an annual resource charge to Lancaster University Network Services for the staffing establishment of

management, engineering and administrative personnel within Lancaster University, which are seconded to Lancaster University Network Services Limited. The resource charge also includes costs associated with network operating systems and operations desk and an overhead charge relating to the use of premises and Lancaster University support services. The Resource Charge currently is £1,530,934 per annum. Approval is also sought to include an additional clause which would allow Lancaster University Network Services Limited to increase the Resource Charge annually in line with the Computer Economic Limited (CEL) Index.

The ICT in Schools Standard Fund Grant – 121 Connectivity and Learning Systems will provide funding for the project until 31st August 2008. It is not known at the present time whether Standards Fund Grant will be available after that date, although it is believed that schools will be allocated funds in some form to allow for payment of their connection to the National Education Network via their CLEO broadband connection. Lancashire County Council shall be entitled to terminate the provision by Lancaster University Services Limited of the Services on the giving of six months' written notice and therefore termination could be applied in the event that the project became unsustainable.

4.2 Consultations

The CLEO Project Board, which includes representation from Lancashire County Council, Cumbria County Council, schools from both Counties and Lancaster University, has supported the extension of the agreement.

4.3 Advice

Lancashire County Council Procurement Team and Lancashire Legal Services have provided advice and Legal Services will draft the contract extension.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 This is an existing contract which has an option to extend by two years. If the contract is extended the contract will be subject to a full tendering process at the end of the extended period.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Cabinet is being asked to consider the extension of an existing contract with Lancaster University Network Services Limited to enable CLEO to continue the implementation of the national education network to meet DfES requirements.

APPENDICES

No Appendices

IMPLICATIONS

Staffing: N/A
Financial: The Resource Charge paid annually to Lancaster University Network Services is currently £1,530,934. This would be increased in line with the Computer Economic Limited (CEL) index which in 2006 was 4.15%. The cost will be paid for from Lancashire and Cumbria's ICT in Schools Standards Fund Grant - 121 Connectivity and Learning Systems. Funding is known until August 2008 and should future funding not be available or the project became unsustainable there is provision for early termination in the contract.

Electoral Division(s): N/A

** Please remove whichever option is not applicable*

Executive Decision	<table border="1"><tr><td>Yes</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Key Decision	<table border="1"><tr><td>Yes</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>			
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<table border="1"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>No</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<table border="1"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>No</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<table border="1"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>N/A</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<table border="1"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>No</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and the Head of Member Services has obtained the necessary approvals.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

**List here any previous relevant decisions. If none, state "No previous relevant decisions".*

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

**List here any papers relied on to a significant extent in preparing the report, and delete the next line.*

**If none, state "No background papers" and delete the line above.*

RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER

Philip Chapelhow

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