

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. **Meeting:** Cabinet members and advisors, Education, Culture and Leisure Services
2. **Date of meeting:** 10 January 2005
3. **Title:** Rotherham Learning Grid progress update
4. **Originating Officer:** RBT
5. **Issue:** 1.0

6. Summary:

The project completed 92 of the 104 circuits by the 17/12.

There are now 94 circuits completed.

See below for details of the outstanding progress.

7. Clearance/consultation:

Regular updates to be requested as required.

Programme Board meetings have been taking place throughout the lifecycle of the project. A final project closure meeting is to be held at the end of January.

8. Timing:

Reports and Programme Board Meeting monthly

9. Background:

For the past 3 years, Rotherham secondary schools have had their curriculum network connected to the Internet. All the schools were satisfied with the service although there were concerns regarding virus protection and sustainability. A key issue with the previous service was the bandwidth to the Internet which was insufficient to support current and expected future growth.

For the past 18 months approximately, 23 primary schools have also been connected to the Internet through BT (Metro VPN), funded by the National Grid for Learning (NGfL) budget (Broadband). This was valuable to the primary schools but expensive to maintain (approx £8k pa) and so a viable, cost-effective alternative was sought for all schools, with the LEA's support.

The government has set a target date of September 2005 for all primary schools to be provided with 2Mb Internet access and all secondary schools to be provided with 10Mb Internet access.

The Rotherham Learning Grid (RLG) project was established to meet these objectives.

The project will ultimately deliver a network infrastructure providing a 10Mb connection, to 104 primary schools, into the council's central-backbone network, and a server farm providing a standard resilient e-mail solution, including: filtering and monitoring functionality; a secure network authentication solution; a cached 10Mbps Internet connection that is filtered using URL blocking and monitoring; an area for schools to locate their web-sites; and an anti-virus solution.

10. Argument:

The progress to date is:

- 94 of the 104 circuits required are completed.
- There are 4 scheduled for completion this week.

- There will be 6 remaining to be completed.
 - Maltby Craggs – requested to be delayed by the LEA. Due for completion by the end of March.
 - Laughton Primary – RMBC damaged the BT duct. Needs road closure to repair; remedial work to be commenced on 17/01/05. Due for completion by the end of the second week of February.
 - St Gerard's Primary and Thrybergh Primary – asbestos found in ducting. Due for completion by end January.
 - Thrybergh Fullerton – fibre installed and found to be damaged. Awaiting repair. Due for completion by end January.
 - Maltby Manor Infants – fibre blockages. Awaiting unblocking. Due for completion by the second week of February.
- 60% of LAN configurations have been completed. NB: this work is carried out FOC by RBT's Schools Connect team (approx. £1000 of work per school).
- The network has been configured to allow all the secondaries to migrate off the RM solution. Documentation has been provided to the schools to explain the work that is required by them to convert across to the RLG. RBT has provided documentation explaining what is required and has offered to assist where required.
- The project is on budget.
- Additional services have been secured for the project, namely Espresso software will be available across the Learning Grid.

11. Risks and uncertainties:

Risk: the secondaries do not carry out the work to enable the RM solution which the RLG is replacing to be terminated

12. Finance:

The cost to RMBC for this three-year managed service is £3.1m.

13. Sustainability:

14. Wards affected:

All

15. References:

16. Presentation:

All Rotherham schools will get Broadband 9 months ahead of government targets. Primary schools will receive 5 times the minimum required speed.

17. Recommendations:

Progress is noted.