



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
3 OCTOBER 2006

ITEM 13

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and
E-Government

Wireless Derby – Market Place Pilot

SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the Community Services Regeneration Equalities and e-Government Cabinet Member Meeting on 14 February 2006, a proposal was considered, to create a city wide wireless network and requested approval to commission a feasibility study to examine the potential for establishing a city wide wireless network across Derby.
- 1.2 The options for the feasibility study are currently being evaluated. However there has been a longstanding aspiration of a wireless network covering the Market Place, and there is the potential opportunity to deliver this whilst at the same time undertaking a small scale technical evaluation of the wireless technology that would be used to deliver a full scale wireless Derby project.
- 1.3 There is a requirement to test the equipment capabilities and its functionality prior to committing to a full scale feasibility study.
- 1.4 This would add to the vibrancy of the Market Place, and provide a wireless capability that could develop commercial opportunities for the Assembly Rooms and provide additional benefits for QUAD and the Tourist Information Centre.
- 1.5 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To install a wireless pilot in the Market Place, incorporating the Assembly Rooms, Tourist Information Centre, Guildhall and Register Office as well as all public areas of the Market Place.
- 2.2 To use the intended technology and configuration that we require as a pilot for a city-wide project which will enable detailed analysis of capabilities, and provide a clear roadmap of future development.
- 2.3 To consider the potential for offering free internet access to citizens within the marketplace pilot, allowing for any technical implications therein.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To test the technology that we intend to use. This will enable detailed analysis in a real environment that we can use to plan for the future in considering the Wireless City Project.
- 3.2 To provide the four City establishments on the borders of the Market Place a wireless network which would provide increased facilities, and possible additional income streams.
- 3.3 In addition to the Business Continuity Plan, in the event of a local disaster, the Market Place could be used as additional siting for disaster recovery facilities.



Wireless Derby – Market Place Pilot

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The introduction of this pilot area will provide an opportunity for Derby City to hold events in the Market Place which require the provision of internet or network access.
- 1.2 The proposed system can be extended to include other services, such as wireless CCTV, which would provide greater security to the area, and provide data for future development.
- 1.3 There is the possibility that businesses in the vicinity of the Market Place may provide an income stream to the Council, via hosted services, streamed video, or internet access.
- 1.4 One option is that the system is divided into three 'access' channels, a citizen channel which will enable access to Council services and internet access in line with the current 'i-can' library service. A Council employee channel, which will allow employees to access the network via wireless devices, and a development extranet channel which will allow multiple agencies to facilitate collaboration. Alternatively, there is the possibility of offering free internet access in the marketplace, although there may be additional financial implications surrounding this.
- 1.5 Discussions have been held with Tourist Information Centre, who see this as an excellent opportunity to promote the City to visitors, and have a great number of ideas regarding ways that the system could be developed in the future.
- 1.6 Meetings are in progress with the Assembly Rooms and Guildhall management to investigate any possible income streams that could be generated from this technology.
- 1.7 Initial meetings with specialist suppliers suggest that antennae in the Market Place could possibly reach as far the Cathedral, parts of Sadlergate, and The Cornmarket.
- 1.8 This project will enable further 'rebalancing' for the Westfield development in the Eagle Centre and provide a focal and vibrant point for the city in the Market place

Next steps

- 2.1 To propose the pilot to Cabinet on 3 October, which if approved, will enable the system to be operational by the switch-on of the Christmas Lights. This will enable us to market the pilot to a large audience. The timescale is subject to change following the tender process.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The cost of setting this system up has been estimated at approximately £30,000, which includes all hardware and the setup costs. No model has yet been investigated to include any income streams which may arise from this pilot. Although this will be undertaken as part of the project implementation. Funding will come from the capital element of the Building on Excellence budget.

Legal

2. The siting of antenna may necessitate planning permission being sought, although this information is not available until a site survey has been completed. In addition legal advice is also being sought in respect of any regulatory, legal or competition implications of operating such a network.

Personnel

3. No additional staff would be required.

Equalities impact

4. The project has the ability to increase social inclusion, but there is no significant impact on equalities issues. However there will a positive economic development impact through the rebalancing of the Westfield development.

Corporate priorities

5. This project will help in the “improving customer services in the City Centre and locally” section of the corporate priorities.