NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

31st March 2016

Report of the Head of ICT and Corporate Procurement – Stephen John

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Public Access Wi-Fi

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the intention to provide publicly accessible and free to use Wi-Fi within selected locations in Council Buildings throughout Neath Port Talbot.

Background

2. The Council is coming under increasing pressure to provide "public access" Wi-Fi to facilitate access to both Council services and also the Internet in general.

3. Providing such access across our existing Council network presents a security risk; one that to date has prevented us releasing this facility.

4. Instead we are suggesting that we partner with "The Cloud", a major public access provider, in order to deliver a safe, functional, secure and resilient service within specific areas across our civic buildings.

5. The company are recognised as a market leader and are already proving their service across a significant number of public bodies across Wales and the wider UK. These include Bridgend C.B.C. and ABMU. The City and County of Swansea are also in advanced talks with the company and are likely to follow suit.

6. The service itself is a managed solution and the intention is to present it in all of our public areas, meeting rooms and specific identified locations where service managers believe its introduction will be beneficial.

7. Access itself is controlled by registration and the highest level of "Family Safe" filtering is automatically applied to ensure that both the individual and the Council are fully protected.

8. The Council will be able to shape the access page such that our Council Logo is presented and that our Welsh Language Standards are maintained.

9. The Council will receive monthly reports detailing who is connecting, for what, where from and with what type of device; all information that will be key in helping to shape our thinking around the Digital by Choice Programme and also help inform the work we are doing around Digital Inclusion.

10. A major benefit of partnering with this provider is that any devices which have previously registered for the service, wherever that service was available, will not be requested to do so again. In effect, citizens who may have registered with the service during time spent in Neath Port Talbot Hospital, or even through one of the many commercial premises that offer the service, Wetherspoons Public Houses for example, will be granted access to our service without a need for a separate registration and vice-versa.

Financial Impact

11. The cost to the Council for providing this service will be an initial implementation cost of £3750 and an ongoing cost of £400 a month over the next three years. All costs will be met by existing budgets with no further pressures being added in future years.

Equality Impact Assessment

12. There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

13. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

14. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

15. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

16. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

17. Item for Information only.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

18. N/A.

Implementation of Decision

19. N/A-

Appendices

20. None

List of Background Papers

21. None

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