

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE PUBLIC SERVICES NETWORK (CPSN)**

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum  
Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
From: John Chapman, The ICT Service

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Cambridgeshire Public Services Network (CPSN) contract will be extended until 31 December 2019. This will allow requisite time for the complex procurement project to take place. There is also the significant added benefit that Health partners will then be ready to join the partnership. This brings many benefits, the major one being the ability to further drive down costs for increased bandwidth for schools.
- 1.2 Schools have been experiencing issues with connectivity over the past few months. The ICT Service have exhausted all options to rectify the current core infrastructure and are now seeking options for funding the replacement of key security devices. The costs for this are likely to be in the region of £200,000 – our intent is that schools do not have to contribute to this and we are currently seeking options for funding.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Cambridgeshire Public Services Network (CPSN) was launched in May 2012. CPSN is an innovative IT and communications network that uses the latest technology to connect over 400 public service sites, including schools, libraries, county and district council offices, community action points, emergency services, citizens' advice hubs and voluntary groups.
- 2.2 The appendix to this document contains 3 slides giving further background information regarding the current network.

**3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 The original CPSN contract is due to cease 30 June 2018. Due to the complexities of the procurement project, and the increased likelihood that Health could become significant partners within the next 12–18 months, the CPSN Partnership Board have sought to extend the current contract. The intention is to extend the current CPSN contract until December 2019. This will effectively hold pricing on CPSN for schools until 1 January 2020 when the EastNet Framework will come into existence.
- 3.2 We anticipate EastNet bandwidth pricing will be lower than now, although obviously we can make no guarantees at this point. Cambridgeshire County Council staff, together with all partners on the procurement team, are working hard to ensure the most robust negotiations take place with potential suppliers of the new network.

**4.0 ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 ***Members of Schools Forum are asked to consider and agree to the continuation of funding for CPSN through to the end of the contract extension, 31 December 2019 at a cost of £1.459m. This sum would come from the Central School Services Block.***

***This will then be taken forward to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for approval.***

### History of CPSN

- 2004
  - Cambridgeshire Community Network – linking Council offices schools onto a private network
    - Primary schools 2Mb
    - Secondary 10Mb
  - 2008 – Secondary schools upgraded to 25Mb
  - Total school over £2million
- 2012-15
  - CPSN came into being with a wider lower cost partnership and lower costs.
  - Total school contribution £1.5million
  - Primary to 10 or 20Mb
  - Secondary up to 100Mb
- 2015/16
  - Schools forum agreed continued funding through to June 2018
  - Secondary schools who started on 10Mb back in 2004, were upgraded as NO cost to 500Mb.
  - Primary all upgraded 10 to 20, 20 to 100Mb
  - Procurement project for replacement network – EastNet - launched

### CPSN Funding

- CPSN has always been funded, bandwidth provided on an equity basis
  - School opting for 100Mb connection in Fenland pays no more than a school in central Cambridge
- Total pot of £1.458 million
  - Funded through retained portion of DSG
  - Funding has stayed the same (and indeed decreased since CCN) whilst ensuring regular bandwidth upgrades for schools at no additional cost.

# Internet Usage – Current Issues

- 2004 – 2016

- Gradual increase of Internet usage to 1Gb
- 2015 - New firewalls and core equipment sized to accommodate up to 4Gb
- CPSN could not afford upgrading both core and schools
- Costs borne by ICT Service
- no costs borne by schools

- 2017

- Major increase of Internet usage to 3Gb
- Change of traffic type now including significant amounts of voice traffic (SIP)
- Increased impact on firewalls meaning maximum throughput only up to 3Gb