

All Settings Broadband Contract Renewal

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the progress of Schools Broadband continuity.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. A paper was presented to the September Forum highlighting the benefits of the Local Authority Broadband offer in terms of Filtering and Support.
- 1.2. Further to that paper, which gave background information and contract options, the Forum requested that an update be brought back to the December Forum.

2. Developments and Progress

- 2.1. The existing service is provided by Virgin Media & Smoothwall.
- 2.2. The contract has now been extended to May 2024.
- 2.3. Each education setting has been offered an option to renew their Broadband provision and Education Standard Content Filtering with Sheffield City Council (through Virgin Media Broadband). This offer is tailored to the site.
- 2.4. A summary of the offer is as follows:
 - A choice of Fibre circuits or “Fibre to the Cabinet” (FTTC)
 - Upgrade options:
 - No price increase for like-for-like service.
 - No install cost to upgrade to fibre connectivity for FTTC sites. (Annual cost will increase).
 - Small Fibre sites can upgrade to 50Mb for the price of 40Mb. Further upgrades are available.
 - Most Secondary Schools are on 400Mb. Upgrades to 500Mb are free. Further upgrades can be provided up to 1Gb.
- 2.5. Schools can choose not to renew for beyond May 2022. Schools will need to procure their own replacement and ensure it is fit for purpose and has adequate content filtering and safeguarding systems in place. This has been communicated to schools.

2.6. Progress of sign-ups at 1/12/2021:

- Primary Schools: 62 out of 91 have signed-up.
 - With 52 opting for upgrades.
- Secondary Schools: 16 out of 19.
 - With 16 opting for upgrades.

- Special Schools 4 out of 5.
- Other sites: 4 out of 4.

More have committed verbally or are going through their governance processes.

Other schools have asked for quotes to come back to our provision and we are now supplying 11 schools out of the city (Rotherham, Doncaster, Derby UTC).

2.7. This represents good progress at this stage. We will be reminding any schools that have not signed up. The lead time for upgrades is a minimum of 60 days.

3. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the progress and consider any matters arising.
- Encourage colleagues to respond to the offer.