

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 12 OCTOBER 2011

REPORT BY HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL SERVICES

REGIONAL E-LEARNING PROJECT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: NONE

Purpose/Summary of Report

To outline the Regional E-Learning project.

<u>RECOMMENDATION :</u>

(A)	To support the Regional E-learning Project
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1.0 Background

1.1 Vine HR Limited and East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) procured Creative Learning Systems in April 2011 to launch a Regional E-learning project.

1.2 Vine HR Limited was awarded 0.5 million by Improvement East to fund this project for an 18 month fixed period from 31 July 2011 to 31 December 2012.

1.3 The purpose and mission of this project is:

- To achieve a regional E-Learning platform – Vine HR - to drive improvements and efficiencies in E-Learning across the East of England;
- To promote the sharing and collaboration on E-Learning content and provision to eliminate waste and duplication of effort where ever possible;
- To work to become self-sufficient partners in a regional network that can extend to include wider Authorities or appropriate organisations.

2.0 Report

2.1 EELGA have approached all County and District Councils in the East of England to give them the opportunity to become part of this project.

2.2 The project is to launch E-Learning by introducing an E-Learning platform supplied by Creative Learning Systems. The project will be delivered and project managed by Vine HR with EELGA as project sponsor.

2.3 The Authority will receive the following:

- Access to both the central repository as well as the Authority-specific platform created by Creative Learning Systems. Each will be branded for Vine HR and the Authority and incorporate a **Moodle** platform;
- Transfer of existing content and E-Learning provision to the new platform (subject to legal and technical requirements);
- Access to **TalkSpark** – a professional networking tool which wraps the Moodle platform into a sharing and collaborative structure that allows users to create groups and share content;
- Access to joint training courses to enable the use of the platform and production of E-Learning materials;
- An agreed number of licences to an authoring tool to create E-Learning and ability to purchase further licences if required;
- Additional support sessions; and
- Access to a central library of existing E-Learning materials ready for repurposing.

2.4 The platform allows for Council's to share their E-Learning programmes, therefore sharing best practice and reducing costs associated with developing and accruing E-learning programmes. These programmes can be altered and branded East Herts.

2.5 The platform allows for existing E-Learning programmes to be uploaded from day one. The platform is web based and therefore access will be via a log in and password.

2.6 A project team would need to be established which would consist of Emma Freeman as Project Lead, Helen Farrell and Lucy Birch as Project Managers. Support would also be needed by ICT. Technical Requirements are set out in FAQ (ERP B). From the

date of agreement the project would take 3 months+ to launch.

- 2.7 The project has three launch dates; Oct 2011, Nov 2011 and Jan 2012. It is proposed that East Herts is in the second or third launch dates.
- 2.8 The Regional E-Learning programme is at no charge to councils if they sign up to the 18 month period. An ongoing charge will be made from 31 December 2012 which is £3,920 (251-750 staff) for 18 months. This cost is to be met in the HR budget.
- 2.9 Some of the benefits of launching this project are:
- Working in partnership to reduce costs and improve efficiency of training delivered.
 - Closer working relationships and greater consistency in quality of training provided.
 - E-Learning can be completed at a date and time to suit the delegate. It can be accessed from home and therefore gives greater flexibility and access to individuals rather than conventional course room based training.
 - Enhances the range of training and development methods currently offered.
 - Reduces effort in duplication of E-Learning programmes developed across the region.
 - By joining this project, East Herts will have the access to a wide range of E-learning courses that have been developed and brought by other Councils.
 - No initial cost for an 18 month period.
 - Supports Investors in People.
- 2.10 A similar offering is currently being explored by EELGA for E-Learning for Members to support Members development.
- 2.11 East Herts has approached Stevenage Borough Council and North Herts Council as part of the Shared Services agenda to establish their engagement in this project.
- 2.12 Frequently Asked Questions are attached in **Essential Reference Paper "B"** attached to the report now submitted.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'** .

Background Papers

None

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives:	Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i>
Consultation:	N/A
Legal:	MOU - 18 month agreement with EELGA for regional e-learning project.
Financial:	As detailed in the report
Human Resource:	As detailed in the report
Risk Management:	N/A