

EE27. Connected Falkirk

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which sought approval of the re-profiling of the capital investment required for Connected Falkirk. Since the approval of year-one funding, negotiations with suppliers through the Scottish Government procurement framework resulted in quotations being offered to the Council.

The negotiations identified an issue in the wi-fi hardware in schools which was now at "end of life", meaning that support could no longer be provided by the manufacturer. This had impacted the profile of the original capital spend on the project. To support Connected Falkirk fully over the 8-year planned project, a new foundation of Cloud-managed wi-fi provision needed to be procured. Whilst that would increase spend in the initial phase of the project, the total cost of ownership over the lifetime of the project would be less. This, along with the recovery plan action to accelerate elements of Connected Falkirk in light of COVID-19 to deliver on the blended learning model now required for schools, had resulted in a requirement to re-profile the full capital award.

Decision

The Emergency Executive:-

- (1) approved the re-profiling of the capital investment in order to accelerate the roll-out of Connected Falkirk, and**
- (2) noted that a future capital submission would be made for further investment required beyond year four of the Connected Falkirk project to ensure longer term sustainability.**