
Chief Executive's Report

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Purpose of paper: Report of the Chief Executive to 10 May 2013

Introduction

This report conveys critical risks or other risks Council should be aware of, my priorities in the past month, planned priorities for the period from now until the end of July, and a number of staffing and contractor issues. A final section includes a series of brief updates, on the following:

- NetHui
- International strategy development
- Community Funding review
- Website Information Architecture review
- ANZIAs
- Internal policies development
- Investments

Separate papers are attached which most conveniently form part of the Chief Executive's report, but that require separate papers to be most sensibly considered:

- A - Operations Update to 10 May 2013
- B - Auckland Premises
- C - AUT Strategic Partnership opportunities

The financial report for the eleven months to 28 February 2013 follows these papers.

As always, feedback from Councillors or members on the content of this report is very welcome.

1: Critical Risks / Other Risks

There are no critical risks to advise the Council of at the reporting date.

2: Recent Priorities

Operating team

The work that has been done by the operating team is summarised in the attached Operations Update. Of particular note have been:

- Developing work on the harmful digital communications proposals Government has raised
- Responding to the telecommunications policy review
- Preparing for the 2012/13 financial audit
- Huge work in getting ready to host NetHui 2013
- Attendance at the ICANN Meeting in Beijing
- Continuing work on the information architecture review of the website

Chief Executive

Since the last meeting of the Council, I have been focused on the following issues, in descending priority order:

- Finalising 2013/14 Budget and Business Plan and translating this into work plans for all staff and contractors
- Ongoing stakeholder outreach and relationship building
- Conducting annual staff appraisals and remuneration reviews
- Understanding and analysing stakeholder perceptions of InternetNZ and how we should respond to these
- Evaluating the overall posture of InternetNZ's communications effort, including the nature of the brand
- Continuing work on a coherent international engagement strategy
- Developing options for our presence in Auckland
- Attending the CommsDay Summit in Sydney, and the Mindstorm Conference in Auckland.

Planned priorities noted in the previous report that did not receive any attention include:

Area not progressed	Explanation
Developing the internal operating policies framework.	Not a priority in the past six weeks due to limited time.
Completing one on one conversations with all Council members.	A few remain outstanding.
Developing ideas as to how we may advance work on the economic impact of the Internet.	This more properly falls within Susan's ambit.
Understanding and responding to the Council's need for support and engagement from the CE and operating team.	No opportunity to do this, better placed as part of induction of new Council post AGM.
Developing initial thinking on a road-map for a new permanent CE – how their induction can best be structured.	This can wait until there is a known timetable to hand over to a new CE.
Assessment of the operating team's capacity to deliver the planned work programme.	This will follow the retreat which is being conducted post the date of this report being finalised.

3: Priorities for the next three months

Given the length of time until the next Council meeting, the horizon for this section of the report is longer than usual, covering focus until the end of July.

Operating Team

The following matters are planned to be the focus for the operating team between 10 May and the end of July:

- Conducting the InternetNZ elections for Council
- Successfully running the NetHui in July
- Planning for the ANZIAs later in the year
- Detailed work plans arising from the Business Plan
- Ongoing involvement in the Telecommunications Act review
- Participation in Internet Governance events in Europe in May
- Progressing the review of community funding
- Completing the audit for 2012/13
- Attendance at the ACCC's regulatory policy conference in Brisbane in July
- Developing plans for InternetNZ's participation at the IGF in Indonesia in October

Items not completed since last report but still outstanding; include:

- Implementing the investment decisions made in February
- New ways for members to engage with policy work at InternetNZ

If Council agrees them at this meeting then joining these projects will be:

- InternetNZ identity review
- Review of InternetNZ Objects

Chief Executive

The following are the areas that I will focus on as CE from now until the end of July, subject to necessary changes in focus arising from events and from the prospective employment of a permanent Chief Executive.

- Supporting successful execution of NetHui
- Bedding down individual work plans for staff and contractors
- Assessing the capacity of the operating team to deliver the business plan, and setting out potential changes for incoming permanent CE to consider
- Establishing our Auckland presence
- Working with the other CEs on premises options
- Getting the International strategy ready for Council consideration later in the year
- Preparing for induction of newly elected Councillors and a permanent CEO
- Contributing to the identity, objects and community funding reviews
- Developing our relationships with Strategic Partners and with TUANZ
- Developing and mentoring staff with changed or refined job roles

4: Staffing and Contractor matters

As previously advised, a restructuring in InternetNZ's Wellington office has led to the role of Project and Society Lead being made redundant. Susi Cosimo's last day with InternetNZ was on 26 April 2013. A luncheon is being held for Susi later in May, to thank her for her hard work, often in challenging circumstances, over many years of service to InternetNZ.

Dean Pemberton joined InternetNZ as a Policy Advisor directly contracted on a 60% basis as of 1 May. Dean will provide added depth to the policy team led by Susan, with a focus on technical input into broader policy development.

Overall, people are busy in their roles and my assessment is that there is a good feeling in the team. Capacity constraints are apparent on the policy side, but we are looking at how to mitigate this in the short term.

5: Updates

NetHui

Krystal reports on this in the operating report. Planning is progressing well. Registrations will have opened by the time the Council meets; solicitation of sponsorship is under way; the programme development is well under way; engagement of the community to drive sessions and streams is well advanced. We anticipate heavy registrations with a different focus to that of past years, due to the event's location in the capital for the first time. The team is eagerly anticipating this event.

International strategy development

This process has been slower than I would have liked, mainly due to unavailability of key personnel and more pressing issues. There is a broad unanimity about how to proceed in setting out objectives for our international work that relate to our Objects, and making sure all three business units work in harmony in the international environment. The strategy will be ready for Council review in June, and could be noted then, and further discussed in the strategic planning process in September and beyond.

Community Funding review

Background research and work has been going on with this, and while the review is a little behind schedule, progress has been made. The delays are due to staff illness. Council will be able to work through the draft report on email as was initially intended, but there will need to be a decision as to whether to finally consider the review in a similar manner, or at an (assumed) special Council that might be called to deal with CE appointment matters, or to defer it until the August meeting.

Website Information Architecture Review

Campbell reports on this in the operating report. The project is proceeding according to plan.

ANZlAs

Campbell reports on this in the operating report. Planning is proceeding well, with Campbell and Krystal working on this.

Internal policies

As noted above, I have not progressed this in the past few weeks. There are two sorts: group policies and those which apply to InternetNZ. I am meeting the other CEs in late May to discern how we make group policies and which ones we might need; and will progress internal InternetNZ ones as time allows in the period between now and the AGM.

Investments

The Investment Committee has signed off investment approaches with both GMI and Milford, so we are progressing to signing up and transferring the funds as discussed at the previous Council meeting.

6: Other matters

- I intend to attend the FTTH Council conference in Auckland 19-21 May.

Jordan Carter
Chief Executive (Acting)
1 May 2013