

Council Communication

Preparation for Approval of the AFN Strategic Business Plan

Meeting Date:	July 19, 2010	Primary Staff Contact:	Rob Lloyd
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Secondary Dept.:	Administration	Secondary Contact:	Michael Ainsworth
Approval:	Martha Bennett	Estimated Time:	60 Minutes

Question:

Does the City Council have any questions regarding the Ashland Fiber Network Strategic Business Plan that staff plans to propose for adoption on August 3, 2010?

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends City Council review and comment on the AFN Strategic Business Plan in preparation for adoption at Council's August 3rd meeting. Staff requests specific feedback on AFN's strategic goals, management direction, and operating plans as detailed in the plan, as well as on any other issues.

Background:

As part of the 2010-2011 City Council Goals, Council set the priority of defining "a long term strategy for the Ashland Fiber Network that improves its financial viability, provides high quality services to residents, and promotes healthy economic development." The Information Technology Department (IT) is responsible for the goal and began work in April 2010.

IT staff visited with members of Council, the City Administrator, City department directors, all ISP partners, and interested community members to ensure the plan for AFN was set based on stakeholder input. Strategic goals were derived from the feedback received from individual Councilmembers and the City Administrator, as AFN's executive board. Input from additional stakeholders helped shape objectives and tactical plans set to achieve those strategic goals.

Research and analysis was conducted over the April-June period to assess the options for AFN that are detailed in the document. IT worked with internal and external reviewers in the first half of July. The plan is now ready for Council consideration. Staff will present the strategic goals, management direction, and planned work to Council for final input and updates, in preparation for seeking approval of the plan at Council's August 3rd meeting.

Council Options:

Council can indicate readiness to accept the plan as is, or direct staff to address additional questions/concerns in advance of approval.

Attachments:

Proposed AFN Strategic Business Plan dated July 2010

