

To EURIM Members and Observers  
From Philip Virgo, EURIM Secretary General  
E-mail: [virgo.philip@eurim.org](mailto:virgo.philip@eurim.org)

The Information  
Society Alliance  
**EURIM**



## EURIM Newsletter July 2010

### 1) Briefing Material for the Class of 2010

*Three clicks to something useful: but password protected because still “under construction”*

The index to the Information Society Alliance briefing material is now in the members' area of the website (i.e. password protected) at [www.eurim.org.uk/members/briefingmaterial/index.php](http://www.eurim.org.uk/members/briefingmaterial/index.php). Links are added as received, including to drafts undergoing revision and review, through Government and Select Committee reports and professional studies, to reading lists and information sources. They also include material that was in the public domain but disappeared when policy changed. Passwords are available for the House of Commons Library staff and those working with Select Committees.

The intention is to follow "Finnish" internet principles: "three clicks to something useful", with embedded links to further detail. The current structure is:

#### **Getting the jobs of the future to your constituency**

- Access to World Class Broadband.
- Ensuring your voters and their children have the skills of the future.
- Attracting and retaining businesses that could locate anywhere.
- Regulation that encourages and reinforces best practice.

#### **Socially inclusive public service delivery at affordable cost**

- Delivering more for less: case studies of success.
- Good practice in planning and procurement.

#### **Making the Internet safe for your family, your customers and your business**

- Online Community Policing.
- Reducing online crime and nuisance.
- Child Protection and Internet Safety.
- Action against impersonation, stalking and grooming.
- Internet Governance.

#### **Privacy and Surveillance v. Service and Security**

- The Database State: Information and Identity Governance.
- The Surveillance Society: Monitoring, Interception, Retention and Access.
- Critical National Infrastructure: Resilience and Cybersecurity.

#### **Democratic Accountability in the electronic age**

- Voter Registration.
- Electoral Reform.
- Consultation.

Comments on structure, wording and content are welcome. Succinct “reviews” to accompany the links to material are particularly helpful. So too are suggestions as to other material, websites and/or reading lists to which we should add links.

## 2) Securing the Jobs of the Future for Your Constituency.

### *Putting national policies into local context*

Stephen McPartland, MP for Stevenage, has agreed to take over as parliamentary chairman of the Knowledge Economy Group. He spoke briefly at the reception on 6<sup>th</sup> July. This was attended by 17 MPs (another 20 or so sent apologies for absence) who met a cross section of those working to provide broadband to their constituencies. A chart [www.eurim.org.uk/activities/commspol/PT\\_Constituency-low-speeds.xls](http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/commspol/PT_Constituency-low-speeds.xls) of the populations covered by the “Universal Service Commitment”, listed by constituency, is now on the website, courtesy of Point Topic. So too is a link to the INCA map of constituencies covered by current broadband plans [www.inca.coop/NGA-map](http://www.inca.coop/NGA-map). The Alliance sub-group looking at the planning and procurement of shared service networks, to make best use of available funding, will report via the Public service Delivery Group (see section 3 below).

Chris Godwin, recently retired from IBM and now working professionally to attract major knowledge-based businesses to the UK, has agreed to stay on as industry chairman for the group. He and Stephen will convene a forward planning meeting after the recess and are looking for parliamentary members who wish to give priority to action that helps support local (as well as national) businesses and jobs, to join the steering group. They also welcome contact from Corporate and Associate members interested in working directly with constituency MPs and local councils: not “just” via Westminster and Whitehall.

## 3) Delivering More for Less: Improving Delivered Service While Cutting Costs

### *From Transformational government to the transformation of Government*

Roger Marshall (a former President of SOCITM, the grouping of local government CIOs) has taken over as industry chairman of the Public Service Delivery Group. On 9<sup>th</sup> June the group agreed two sub-groups to identify and promote good practice on the procurement of shared networks and of security. Shared network services can help deliver direct savings (70% reductions in communications costs are not unusual) and are on the critical path for the savings targetted from joined-up online delivery. Meanwhile confusion over good practice in the procurement of security advice, let alone the advice actually received, is a major barrier to sharing.

The Audit Commission and the NAO identified nearly 50 Public Buying Organisations providing framework agreements, model contracts and tender questions and other advice in their recent study [http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/press\\_notice\\_home/0910/collaborative\\_procurement.aspx](http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/press_notice_home/0910/collaborative_procurement.aspx) on Collaborative Procurement. The collective cost to suppliers of bidding is often greater than the value of the business awarded. And some agreed prices for basic commodities that were twice the price of others. It is one reason why the UK public sector pays 10%, possibly as much as 30%, more than other parts of the EU for comparable services. The intention is that the sub-groups will begin by asking supplier participants to list the frameworks and types of contract under which they are asked to bid, the cost of doing so and which they regard as worthwhile and/or good practice. Our public sector observers will be asked to assemble complementary material on their side.

The intention is to agree terms of reference for the sub-groups within the next fortnight and meet again in September to review provisional lists of those frameworks/contracts that appear (to a cross section of suppliers, buyers, public sector auditors and security professionals) to be worth sharing or replicating. The sub-groups will then aim to produce reports and briefings by November. The provisional lists will, however, be available for use by the participants, as soon as they are received.

This exercise would not have been possible until the recent change in attitudes towards co-operation, as players, on all sides, appreciate the cost of not helping expedite the review of processes that will follow the current moratorium. The costs of delay include lost public sector savings and damage to potential suppliers and the UK skills base. Last week a couple of major suppliers (who compete head to head across many parts of the EU) agreed to look rapidly at how they could contribute comparative data without disclosing confidential information to each other. The public sector players at that meeting (immediately after the reception on 6<sup>th</sup> July) were similarly constructive. Please let me know c/o [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if your organisation is willing to share its experience of tendering or bidding

under different frameworks and, if so, who should be invited to participate. Please indicate whether those proposed for the exercise on security procurement are bound by current or past clearances.

#### **4) Information and Identity Governance not just Garbage Protection**

##### *Ensuring processes that a fit for purpose*

The sub-group on **individual voter registration** reviewed a survey of nearly 20 countries and received presentations on Danish and Norwegian experience on 15<sup>th</sup> June. It also received disturbing inputs from John Hemming MP on how weaknesses in the current UK systems undermine the ability of those living in inner cities to vote in secret, as opposed to how their community leaders have determined they should vote. It was felt the sub-group should confine itself to registration but that we should consider working with others on how to handle the wider issues. It meets again on 26<sup>th</sup> July to review the structure and contents for a report in the autumn covering methods of voter registration, lessons from other countries, from previous trials in this country and from the elections this year.

The sub-group on **identity governance** reviewed progress on 30<sup>th</sup> June. A draft briefing and summary entitled ‘How do they know it is really you?’ ([www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ig/idg/idg.php](http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ig/idg/idg.php)) is in the members’ area of the website for review. A more detailed paper and supporting resource website, including material covering the plethora of overlapping, duplicated and fragmented electronic identity management initiatives (public and private, local, national and inter-national) is planned for the autumn. There is very much less work on interoperability and sharing across identity schemes with different objectives, structures and governance: although this has, in practice, long been commonplace in the private sector, including for national and international financial services and trading networks.

£6 billion of “economic contribution” was mentioned in the announcement of the Public Sector Transparency Board <http://writetoreply.org/publicsectortransparencyboard/>, from “freeing up public sector datasets for re-use”. But Frances Maude also said in a press article: “The data we release won’t always be perfect.” On the 8<sup>th</sup> June the sub-group on Quality of Information reviewed a draft covering what is already known about the quality, or otherwise, on the main sources of public sector information and provisional key messages and recommendations. This is among the papers in the members’ area of the website. A final report is due in the autumn.

#### **5) Making the Internet a Safe Place to Learn, Relax, Shop and Do Business**

##### *From Internet Governance through the dark side of the net to Cyberwarfare*

The e-Crime group helps support the UK Internet Governance Forum and the e-Crime Reduction Partnership, both chaired by the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, who was the UK Minister at the Summit in Tunis which created the global Internet Governance Forum. On 7<sup>th</sup> July the UK Internet Governance Forum met to discuss inputs to the next world IGF in Vilnius in September. A workshop on Internet Safety covered issues of child safety and the need to look after the growing number of silver surfers who are being targetted by fraudsters: including those offering to help “secure” their systems. There were many questions, but a common thread was that those who want customers to transact with them online must also take a lead, lest governments shackle the online world with well-intentioned interventions that will not achieve the stated objectives. As in the past, the UK will send a Parliamentary delegation (two from the government benches, two from the opposition) to the Vilnius IGF and we will be helping with inputs.

Briefing material on the current state of initiatives with regard to co-operation on e-crime prevention and awareness programmes for consumers and small firms has been placed on the website and CEOP (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency) has offered one-on-one briefings for MPs. We have agreed to work with e-Skills-UK on a survey of the security and investigation qualifications and accreditations valued by employers but need to resource this exercise. The current plan is to work with a sub-group of the Conference of Professors and Heads of Computing who would like such information to help decide what they should include in their courses to improve the employability of students and/or to offer as short courses to local business and law enforcement, to help plug their funding gaps. Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would like to help.

## **6) Putting the Digital Economy Act and Broadband UK into EU Context**

*Including finding ways forward over intellectual property rights*

On 21<sup>st</sup> June the Communications Group agreed inputs to a note for the parliamentary chairman, Malcolm Harbour MEP, to send privately to the Minister, Ed Vaizey, in advance of his consultation meeting with industry on 15<sup>th</sup> July. The aim was to suggest questions he might ask or answer. The first was whether he supported the more ambitious targets in the Commission Digital Agenda for Europe with “basic broadband” (2 mbps) to all Europeans by 2013, 30 mbps to all by 2020 and at least 100 mbps to 50% of Europeans by 2020. This raised questions to be asked of those bidding for UK public sector funding as to how they would deliver the open-access, interoperability and infrastructure sharing necessary to deliver such a growth path at affordable cost. The material will also be used in the exercise on good practice in planning and procurement described in section 3 above.

The enforcement sections within the Digital Economy Act have caused as much controversy within the UK as have their equivalents across the rest of the EU. The need is to bring together industry and consumer groups to discuss how to co-operate in ensuring policies that really do protect consumers from unfair exploitation, at the same time as encouraging investment and innovation in content and infrastructure. That entails agreeing what concepts like “net neutrality” mean in practice and bridging divides between interest groups with no tradition of co-operation. The intention is to begin by working with groups used to co-operation, like the British Screen Advisory Council in the UK and the European Internet Foundation <http://www.eifonline.org/> in Brussels. This will, however, need to be resourced by those who wish to see practical results. Please let me know if you would like to help.

## **7) Ensuring that Your Voters and their Children have the Skills of the Future**

*From education as a “rite of passage” to “lifelong learning” for all*

The exercise to use University-based short courses to help address the current crisis (quality as well as quantity) in the UK supply of electronic security skills (see section 5 above) is intended to lead in to a wider attempt to transform attitudes towards skills development in the UK. The current intention is to work with the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing and the relevant professional bodies (e.g. BCS, IET, IMIS, ISACA and ISC) and Trade Associations (e.g. Intellect) to involve the University constituency MPs and political alumni in campaigns to turn our growing indigenous skills crises (of atrophying workforce skills) into a global opportunities, at affordable cost. Please let me know if you would like an invitation to participate.