

CORPORATE COMMITTEE

9TH JULY 2018

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LEICESTERSHIRE ICT PARTNERSHIP DIGITAL STRATEGY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To introduce and seek approval of the Leicestershire ICT Partnership Digital Strategy

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **That the Leicestershire ICT Partnership Digital Strategy at Appendix 1 is approved and adopted by Melton Borough Council**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Over the next 10-15 years the advances that digital connectivity will offer is likely to be a game changer and will impact all aspects of how communities work, economically, socially and environmentally. Businesses will need it to remain competitive, communities will demand it because of the positive impact it will have on their well being and localities without good connectivity will be unattractive as places to live or to establish businesses. As outlined in the Council's Phase 1 Digital Strategy approved in April 2017 the Council overall needs to up its game in order to take full advantage of this digital revolution.

3.2 The Leicestershire Districts ICT Partnership is made up of Blaby District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Melton Borough Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. The Partnership meets bi monthly to discuss the operational aspects of the ICT service, receive feedback on the service and most importantly to consider ways in which improvements can be made to the internal ICT service and access to services digitally for our customers.

3.3 It has been recognised by the partners that there is merit in adopting a single digital strategy for the localities covered by the partnership and Melton has played a full part in developing this cross-partner strategy. It details the vision of the Partnership and there is a draft supporting action plan which sits alongside the Strategy in order to deliver the Objectives. The other 3 partners have already approved the strategy. For Melton this builds upon the Phase 1 Digital Strategy mentioned above.

3.4 It should be noted that the strategy is not just about the delivery of IT services within the council but includes digital connectivity across the Borough as well as helping people to be more digitally aware and skilled. Good broadband and increasingly good mobile connectivity is a major issue for our communities and businesses and it is becoming increasingly difficult for rural areas such as Melton to keep pace with the available technology which other areas benefit from. The strategy sets the direction for Melton and the partnership and through working together will provide a more powerful force for increased connectivity throughout our communities.

3.5 A copy of the strategy document is attached at Appendix 1.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Digital has the potential to impact significantly on all aspects of how the Council works

4.2 There is a strong argument that the digital strategy will impact every corporate priority

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no additional financial or other resource implications at this stage

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There may be legal issues that will need to be addressed as part of implementation of any initiatives, such as security of data.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 The use of digital is likely to have a revolutionary impact upon how the Council and partners will tackle community safety issues in the future, quite possibly in ways that are currently difficult to envisage or imagine.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 There will be particular challenges to ensure that digital benefits everyone and that is the overriding spirit of developing this Digital Strategy.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 To consider and give any Risks related to this report and if there are risks to complete the tables below

Probability



L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High			2	
	C	Significant			1	
	D	Low				
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4
IMPACT						

Risk No	Risk Description
1	MBC fails to realise the potential of digital – poor productivity.
2	In the future Melton is unattractive as a place to live, work and visit due to poor digital infrastructure.

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 Digital developments could have significant environmental benefits, such as reducing the need for journeys

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 Policy Forum, Senior Management Team and appropriate internal staff

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards

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Date: 25 June 2018

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Leicestershire ICT Partnership Digital Strategy

Background Papers:

Reference: X: C'tees, Council & Sub-C'tees/Corporate/