

Cabinet - 13th September 2006

Report of the Director of Finance and the Director of Children's Services

Interim Corporate ICT Strategy 2006-2007

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval to an Interim Corporate ICT Strategy which covers the period 2006 to 2007.

Background

2. ICT STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The Council's current Corporate ICT Strategy 2005 to 2009 was published in March 2005, and mainly focussed on the delivery of e-government targets to achieve Implementing Electronic Government funding.

The new strategy is an interim step which builds on the previous positive developments we have achieved in meeting our e-government targets and begins to pave the way for a much larger Transformational strategy focusing on the Government's Transformational Government Agenda which is presently still out to consultation and a final version has not been published. This interim strategy will enable the Council to move forward until the transformational agenda has been developed. Transformational Government transcends the ICT Strategy which will itself be only a part, albeit an important one, of a potentially much larger programme.

Therefore the review of ICT Strategy has been carried out this year with a 'light touch' review and in the context of the following main strategic aims:

- Development of Customer Services (Including supporting Dudley Council Plus initiatives; web developments; Information management etc)
- Exploiting existing ICT developments by maximising the potential that newly implemented e-government initiatives such as BVPI 157 and Priority Outcomes have brought and new ICT Systems eg The Corporate Financial Suite
- Encouraging and developing greater Community use of ICT
- Developing New Technologies
- Identifying opportunities to use ICT to drive efficiencies and New Ways of Working

It recognises that the way ahead on a number of fronts is already well set at a strategic level. This includes improved Customer Access to Services largely through Dudley Council Plus, the replacement of the core financial systems and mainframe, and the delivery of e-government initiatives.

Further consideration will need to be given in the coming months to the impact that meeting the Government's Strategy for delivering the Transformation Agenda will have.

Individual Directorates of the Council maintain 5 Year ICT Plans, which also contribute to the development of the Corporate ICT Strategy

3. IMPLEMENTATION

The interim strategy is a development of the current strategy and therefore there is no major step change from one strategy to another. The strategy will be taken forward by the Council's ICT Services Division; the e-Dudley Steering Group and individual Directorates.

The development of the Corporate ICT Strategy involves both officers and elected members. Members are engaged through the work of the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration and officers through Directorate Plans; e-Dudley Steering Group and Corporate Board.

Previous strategies have allowed the Council to deliver the target for 100% e-enablement (BVPI 157) and the delivery of the ODPM programme for 'Priority Services and Transformation Outcomes'. This has enabled the Council to submit successful IEG Statements which have resulted in additional capital grant provision of £900,000

4. MONITORING

The Corporate ICT Strategy is monitored by elected members, Corporate Board, the e-Dudley Steering Group and by the Director of Finance. Key elements are incorporated into the Council's overall performance management through the Council Plan.

5. PUBLICATION

The approved strategy will be published and publicised both within the Council and on the Council website.

Finance

6. Delivery of the Strategic aims will depend upon future resource availability. Whilst this document outlines a strategy it does not fetter future resources and strategic developments will only take place if supported by an approved Business Case. The previous strategy successfully delivered £900,000 in Implementing Electronic Government grants from the Government, but this funding stream is now no longer available.

Law

7. Section III of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything which is incidental to, conducive to or which facilitates the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

8. The development of electronic services is designed to improve customer choice and access to Council services and information. Children and young people have not been specifically consulted about the content for this report and the proposed Interim Corporate ICT Strategy 2006-07 but will be involved in discussions over the coming year.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that members approve the Interim Corporate ICT Strategy for 2006-2007, its subsequent publication and implementation and that the Director of Finance be authorised to carry out the recommended actions.



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Mike S. Williams
Director of Finance



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List of Background Papers

The existing ICT Strategy and Implementing Electronic Government Statement are available on the Internet at [ICT Strategy 2005 to 2009](#).

Existing Directorate 5 Year ICT Plans are available on the Intranet at insidedudley/edudley/edudley.htm.

The Chief Information Officer Council paper, Transformational Government, Enabled by technology is available on the Intranet at [Transformational Strategy](#)