Cabinet – 14th December 2005

Joint Report of the Director of Finance and the Corporate e-Champion

Implementing Electronic Government Statement (IEG5)

Purpose of Report

1.   To inform the Cabinet of the production of the fifth and penultimate Implementing Electronic Government statement, which now requires approval and submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) by 19th December 2005.

Background

2.   IEG5 is the last but one in a series of submissions that all English local authorities have been required to submit to the ODPM commencing in 2001. As a result of these submissions we have secured our full share of the funding for the Local e-Government programme, totalling £900,000. There will be no further funding as a result of our IEG5, or our IEG6 submission next year.

3.   There have been two key targets established during this programme:

   •   The achievement of 100% e-enablement of services at a basic level by end December 2005, as measured by BVPI 157.
   •   The implementation of a programme of 'Priority Services and Transformation Outcomes' requiring 29 projects to be delivered by end December 2005 and a further 25 projects to be delivered by end March 2006.

4. The Council currently expects the IEG5 statement to confirm that we are on target to meet all targets. Some of the major developments taking place will increase choice, including:

   •   Online Schools admissions
   •   Online Planning and Building Control services
   •   Online booking of sports and leisure facilities
   •   Increasing the range of options for making payments
   •   Finding out about matters of interest to your place of work or residence with interactive maps etc. on the website
   •   Increasing the range of services delivered through Dudley Council Plus using the phone, walk-in, or the website.
   •   Increasing the range of information on the website, including information about Councillors, committees, decisions and plans
   •   Meeting standards for accessibility of our website for all those within the community

5. One of the major themes for 2006/7 will be the promotion, marketing and exploitation of all the facilities that will be in place to increase take-up, particularly of self-service through the website which offers the potential for significant efficiency gains. The ODPM are planning a national campaign and we will complement this with our own local campaigns as appropriate.

Finance

6. Successful submissions of previous IEG statements have resulted in capital grant of £900,000 for implementing e-Government.

Law

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

Equality Impact

8. The introduction of electronic services and the ability for people to access the Council from free facilities such as PCs in Libraries, and PCs in their own homes 24 hours per day 7 days per week is intended to make the council more accessible, transparent and to increase choice Some of the Priority Outcomes are directly relevant to those with disabilities, for example the Council Website has to meet national and international accessibility standards for those with impaired eyesight.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that:-

   - Cabinet approves the current draft IEG5 statement at Appendix A and authorises the Director of Finance and the Corporate e-Champion to make any final updates and improvements and submit the final statement to the ODPM on 19th December 2005.

   - The final IEG5 statement is published on the website on 19th December to complement our other IEG statements going back to 2001.

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John Freeman Mike S Williams
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(e-Champion)

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List of Background Papers

- The Government have produced a website for all matters pertaining to Local e-Government at www.localegov.gov.uk. This site contains guidance for IEG5 and the IEG5 pro-forma.

- The Government have produced an Electronic Service Delivery toolkit (the ESD Toolkit) for measuring performance against BVPI 157, to which the Council has subscribed. This is publicly available on the Internet at www.esd-toolkit.org (although full access requires a registered username and password).

- The following documents can be found on the Council website (www.dudley.gov.uk) under Council Democracy/ Plans Policies and Strategies / Implementing Electronic Government:

  IEG Statement 2001
  IEG Statement 2002
  IEG Statement 2003
  IEG statement 2004
  IEG Statement 2004.5
  ICT Strategy 2005 – 2009