

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE CABINET - 16th MARCH 2005

Agenda Item No 9

CORPORATE ICT STRATEGY 2005-2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING (E-CHAMPION)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to the latest Corporate ICT Strategy which covers the period 2005 to 2009.

2. ICT STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1 The Council's current Corporate ICT Strategy 2004 to 2008 was published in March 2004, and that strategy provides the substance for the development of the latest version of the strategy.
- 2.2 The Best Value review of ICT Services in 2001/2 established a revised process for ICT Strategy. This was based on an annual review culminating in a report and final strategy for approval by the Cabinet.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Individual Directorates of the Council maintain 5 Year ICT Plans which also contribute to the development of the Corporate ICT Strategy.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 The revised strategy is a natural development of the current strategy and therefore there is a smooth transition from the one strategy to the other. The strategy will be taken forward by the Council's ICT Services Division and the e-Dudley Steering Group.
- 3.2 It has been agreed by Members and officers that this year there should be a 'light touch' review of the strategy. This was on the basis that the way ahead on a number of fronts was already well set at a strategic level. This included the Customer Access to Services, the replacement of the core financial systems and the mainframe, and the delivery of e-Government targets.
- 3.3 Therefore the review of ICT Strategy has been carried out in the context of:
 - Any major initiatives arising from Directorate feedback
 - Further involvement with Customer Access To Services (CATS)
 - Further directives and guidance from Government
 - Progress against commitments in the current strategy

- Other factors such as the Gershon efficiency review, the LPSA and the forthcoming Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and other strategic plans

- 3.4 The Corporate ICT Strategy is monitored by elected members, by 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.
- 3.5 The strategy is developed in full recognition of the requirements to deliver e-Government targets and the expectation to produce a further set of *Implementing Electronic Government Statements (IEG)* in during 2005 and early 2006. Through previous statements we have been able to demonstrate satisfactory progress towards the target for 100% e-enablement (BVPI 157) and the delivery of the ODPM programme for 'Priority Services and Transformation Outcomes'.
- 3.6 Our successful IEG Statements have so far resulted in additional capital grant provision of £750,000 with a further £150,000 anticipated in 2005/6.
- 3.7 The approved strategy will be published and publicised both within the Council and on the Council website.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is proposed that members consider this report and the ICT Strategy for 2005-2009 which is provided as appendix A.

5. FINANCE

- 5.1 The costs of meeting ICT strategy targets will have to be met from within existing resources or bid for from new funding streams. To date, much of the funding for projects has come from a combination of directorate funds, ICT corporate strategy funds and IEG monies.

6. LAW

- 6.1 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.

7. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 7.1 The development of electronic services is designed to improve customer choice and access to Council services and information.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

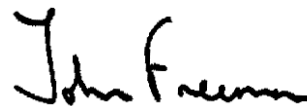
- 8.1 That members approve the ICT Strategy for 2004-2008 and its subsequent publication and implementation.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 The existing ICT Strategy and Implementing Electronic Government Statement are available on the Internet at www.dudley.gov.uk/policies.htm.
- 9.2 Existing Directorate 5 Year ICT Plans are available on the Intranet at insidedudley/edudley/edudley.htm.
- 9.3 The Government provides a website for local e-Government at www.localegov.gov.uk.



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