THE CABINET – 15 JUNE 2005 **Agenda Item No. 8**

IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT STATEMENT (IEG4.5)

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Cabinet of the production of the update to the fourth Implementing Electronic Government statement, which now requires approval and submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) by 18th July 2005.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 IEG4 was the fourth in an annual series of IEG statements that the council has been required to produce. As this is the final year of the e-Government programme, the ODPM has set up a mid-term report on progress – IEG4.5. This is a means of providing an update on progress against IEG4, although the ODPM have also taken this opportunity to change some of the reporting requirements, particularly to fit in with the Annual Efficiency Savings report.

2.2 The ODPM will then require the Council to submit an IEG5 in December 2005 and a final IEG in April 2006. The previous four statements were successful in attracting funding totalling £900,000 from Local Government Online central funding.

2.3 Regular reports on elements of e-Government are taken to the Select Committee on Economic Regeneration, the e-Dudley Steering Group and Corporate Board.

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

3.1 The Council has made good progress with e-government over recent years, for example:

3.2 The Council is now fully on course to meet the BVPI 157 requirement of 100% e-enablement by the deadline of December 2005. By the end of 2004/5 we had achieved 90% therefore leaving 10% to be e-enabled by December 2005.

3.3 The Council is also on course to deliver the challenging programme of 'Priority Services and Transformation Outcomes' set for all Councils in England. Out of a total of fifty four projects that have to be completed by December 2005 (and in some cases April 2006), we have completed nineteen and all the remaining thirty five projects have been allocated to appropriate Directorates to deliver, and the necessary action is underway.

3.4 Major changes are taking place in a number of Directorates:

- Preparing for online Schools Admissions for 2006/7
- Preparing for online Planning Applications in 2005/6
- Social Services hosting a pathfinder national event showcasing our implementation of the Electronic Social Care Record

- Dudley Council Plus opened its doors in May with the initial focus on Environment Directorate services
- Our website recognised as amongst the top thirty eight of all council websites
- Our replacement of all core financial systems well under way
- Housing Direct 24hrs 7 days per week call centre handled half a million calls during 2004/5
- Meeting the requirements of Freedom of Information Act enhanced by making all appropriate committee information available on the web for access to all

4.   IEG4.5

4.1   Similar to IEG4, IEG4.5 consists of six sections. Each section focuses on a specific aspect of implementing e-Government. Each section is being worked on by appropriate officers to enable the full submission to be made.

4.2   IEG4.5 is to be submitted through an online service on the Internet by 18th July. This service provides a facility for a printed version of the data in the prescribed ODPM format. However, this service was not available at the time of writing this report, so no actual printed copy of IEG4.5 was available for distribution with this report.

4.3   At the time of writing the report there were no indications from the various officers engaged on IEG4.5 of any matters to bring specifically to the attention of Cabinet. Furthermore, although Cabinet approval is being sought, due to the timescale still remaining until the final submission date, it is proposed that these officers continue to update the IEG4.5 data until the cut off date.

4.4   If a version of the IEG4.5 becomes available before the Cabinet meeting on 15th June, this will have been circulated.

5.   PROPOSAL

5.1   It is proposed that the Cabinet note the development of IEG4.5 as stated in section 4 and consider any printed version of IEG4.5 that is available for this meeting.

5.2   It is proposed that Cabinet authorise the Director of Finance and the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning (e-Champion) to submit to the ODPM the latest position for IEG4.5 online and in time for the ODPM deadline of 18th July 2005.

5.3   It is proposed that a copy of the IEG4.5 submission is published on the website after 18th July 2005.

6.   FINANCE

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

7.   LAW

7.1   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.

8.   EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

9.   RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1   That the Cabinet approve the proposals in section 5.

10.   BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1   The following documents can be found on the Council website (www.dudley.gov.uk) under Plans Policies and Strategies / Implementing Electronic Government:
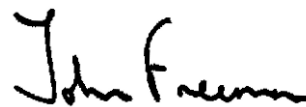
IEG Statement 2001
IEG Statement 2002
IEG Statement 2003
IEG statement 2004
ICT Strategy 2005 – 2009

10.2   The Government have produced a website for all matters pertaining to Local e-Government at www.localegov.gov.uk. This site contains guidance for IEG4.5 and the IEG4.5 pro-forma.

10.3   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).

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Mike Williams   John Freeman
Director of Finance   Director of Education & Lifelong
                                                                   Learning (e-Champion)