

EX19. Digital Strategy – Principles and Resources

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided a digital strategy for the Council and set out the principles that underpinned it. The report detailed key areas for action and the commitment and resources required to deliver on strategy which was a key component of the Council's business plan.

The strategy had significant consequences for the way all Services designed and delivered services. It challenged the role of leaders not just to support change but actively to lead transformation across the authority. As such it set a direction with underpinning principles at this stage. Detailed actions on specific work would be subject to further discussion with services and developed over the life of the strategy.

A commitment to centralising all technology budgets was agreed in the last technology strategy and would be implemented. The reason for the delay was the lack of governance that would allow decisions to be taken centrally but fully informed by Service needs. The Council of the Future governance provided this framework. To deliver the change set out in the strategy, the Council of the Future Board had allocated some transformation funding.

To support more agility in the use of technology, while recognising the increased risk to services in moving to digital first, a revised Information Security Policy and Acceptable Use Policy were provided. The amendments were intended to be more permissive in approach i.e. recognising that equipment provided by the Council would be used for a number of purposes i.e. for work but also for personal tasks.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) noted the digital strategy;**
- (2) agreed the actions which would be developed over the coming months and years to deliver as a digital council – set out in para 3.3 – 3.5 of the strategy;**
- (3) approved the Information Security and Acceptable Use policies;**
- (4) noted that ongoing engagement would help identify the future digital requirement of Council Services, and**
- (5) noted that the digital strategy would support the delivery of the digital requirement set out in the Council's five-year business plan.**