

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

12 MARCH 2016

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE & ICT

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2016-2020

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for a revised Information and Communications Technology (ICT) strategy for the period 2016-2020.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The strategy aims to support all priorities and has been developed with specific regard to the Council's revised corporate priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The previous ICT strategy was in force April 2012- April 2015. The strategy was focused on the ICT service and successfully drove a workplan that has been delivered. This workplan has been extended during 2015-16 pending the development of the council's revised corporate priorities as well as emergent work to determine the Council's appetite around digital/channel shift and agile working, both of which have gathered significant momentum over the last year.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The format of the ICT strategy has been significantly changed. The new document aims to form explicit links with the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Furthermore, the purpose of the draft strategy is to set out the corporate approach to the delivery of ICT , in a way that is:

- easily understood by key stakeholders from across the council and its citizens: and
- sets a clear approach to address new challenges and opportunities which arise during the strategy period.

- 4.2 The duration of the strategy has been increased from three years to five. This is deliberately aligned to two key external factors which will influence its future development:

- The need to vacate Sunnyside House at the end of the strategy period as the lease expires. The building currently contains the Council's core ICT infrastructure. It is the Council's key access point to the Public Sector Network (PSBA) and is internally networked with Civic Offices and Raven's Court.

- The need to integrate and align systems with one or more potential partners under Local Government Reorganisation.

4.3 There will be a midpoint refresh during 2018, at which time it is expected there will be greater clarity around these factors, enabling appropriate solutions to be developed and executed during the second half of the strategy period.

4.4 As part of the strategy development consultation has been undertaken with Cabinet Members, Corporate Management Board (CMB) and the members ICT forum. Following formal signoff from cabinet, a communication and engagement plan will be designed and implemented with the ICT team and across the Council.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equalities impacts arising as a result of the strategy. Where specific projects/priorities may have equalities impacts, an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out at the appropriate time.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications delivering the ICT Strategy. The strategy itself has been developed in the context of continuing pressures on Council budgets and seeks to continue provision of high quality, resilient services with diminishing resources. It should be noted however that "Priority 4: Deliver Digital" will require significant investment which will be subject to a business case to justify this.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 Cabinet is asked to approved the ICT Strategy 2016-20 attached at Appendix A.

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12 March 2016

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Background papers : Information and Communication Technology Strategy 2016-2020