

# **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

## **FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**17 SEPTEMBER 2007**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

#### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) STRATEGY**

##### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents a draft Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Strategy. The strategy will be continuously reviewed and the updated document will be returned to Cabinet periodically. It was presented to the Cabinet on 6 September 2007.

##### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council is a large user of ICT and as such requires a policy to manage and control the investment that it makes in ICT and to ensure that its use and any investment is aligned with and supports:

- The Corporate Plan
- Corporate priorities, aims and objectives
- The Medium Term Financial Strategy
- The Efficiency Plan
- Other Corporate strategies, e.g. the Customer Access Strategy.

- 2.2 The new ICT Strategy builds on a number of strategic decisions that have been approved by Cabinet in recent years including:

- Approval of a Security Policy
- Core IT Systems programme
- Central server and storage strategy
- Corporate ICT Unit (IT Services)

### **3 THE ICT STRATEGY**

3.1 The Strategy addresses the following areas:

- What is meant by and included in “ICT”
- Fundamental principles for ICT developments
- Objectives for investment in ICT
- Existing strategic framework
- ICT governance
- Security policies for the use of ICT
- ICT funding
- Business continuity and disaster recovery
- Members’ ICT provision
- Corporate systems and infrastructure

3.2 The Strategy contains as an appendix, an action plan to address issues identified.

3.3 The Strategy will be supported by an ICT work plan which will be submitted annually as part of the budget process.

3.4 When the Strategy is published electronically, links to relevant documents will be included.

### **4 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 As previously reported to Cabinet, the gross budget of IT Services is £12.8m which excludes the cost of departmental PC purchases met from departmental budgets and estimated at a further £1m per year.

4.2 IT Services will investigate further achievable economies through elimination of overlap and duplication and through adoption of Council wide of best practice.

4.3 A saving of £100,000 in respect of staffing will be factored into the IT Services budget as part of the Efficiency Plan.

### **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**7 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**8 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**9 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**10 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no particular implications for any Members or wards arising out of this report.

**11 RECOMMENDATION**

11.1 That the report be noted.

IAN COLEMAN  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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