

Government ICT Strategy, Smarter, Cheaper, Greener and the Implications for Wirral

	Strand	Explanation	Implications for Wirral	Key Dates
1	The Public Sector Network Strategy	Rationalising and standardising to create a 'network of networks', enabling secure fixed and mobile communications for greater capability at a lower price.	<p>Wirral is already linked to the gcsx network i.e. the Government Connect Secure eXchange.</p> <p>Wirral is presently tendering for wide area network provision for 2010 – 2013 with an option to 2014. The national position will be clearer when Wirral next comes to review requirements.</p>	<p>By the end of 2012, all GSi 'family' (including x.GSi, GCSX, PSI, GSE) and MTS customers will migrate to Public Sector Network based services and 80 % of public sector users will have started utilising the Public Sector Network marketplace.</p> <p>By the end of 2015, 95% of Network Services procurements will be through the Public Sector Network services directory.</p> <p>By 2017, all government voice systems will move from the Public Service Telephone Network (PSTN) to delivery using Voice Over Internet Protocol.</p> <p>In Central Government the PSN Services Programme, led by Cabinet Office, is likely to be the first PSN compliant framework procurement.</p> <p>At a local government level, Hampshire County Council is leading the way, joining together 16 public sector bodies with a shared unified network – an early PSN pathfinder Programme.</p>

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2	The Government Cloud (G-Cloud)	<p>Rationalising the government ICT estate, using cloud computing to increase capability and security, reduce costs and accelerate deployment speeds</p> <p>This is conceptually a single access point so public sector organisations can select and host ICT services in a shared environment. Multiple suppliers and services are to be available to facilitate competition</p> <p>The physical infrastructure will be a common resource available to all and so local authorities do not have to develop solutions independently</p>	<p>It is likely Wirral Council will be replacing equipment in the next few months and that the new equipment will have a 4-5 year life. Consequently it will be 2014 when the business case for moving to the G- Cloud would be made.</p> <p>When the Strategy is delivered Wirral will not have its own provision in house.</p>	No information at the moment.

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3	The Data Centre Strategy	<p>Rationalising data centres to reduce costs while increasing resilience and capability.</p> <p>The strategy seeks to reduce the number of data centres from hundreds to between 10 and 12.</p> <p>An objective is to build consistent security controls across Government.</p>	<p>Wirral Council will be replacing equipment in the next 12 months and that the new equipment will have a 4-5 year life. Consequently it will be 2014 at the earliest that the business case for moving to the G-Cloud would be made.</p> <p>When the Strategy is delivered Wirral will not have its own provision in house.</p>	<p>Reduce the number of data centres to provisionally between 10 – 12 for the whole of the public sector</p> <p>The data centre strategy</p> <p>http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/ict/ict_strands/data_centre.aspx</p> <p>will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced hardware maintenance and power consumption through more efficient and better use of existing infrastructure Improved security and resilience Consolidation of data centres will reduce footprint of building estate in keeping with the Green Agenda Reduction in the risk of disruption to delivery of ICT services to the Public Sector Deliver ICT systems that are flexible and responsive to demand.

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				<p>Published timetable in the strategy:</p> <p>The Cabinet Office-led joint Government/Industry Data Centre Strategy team, will by early 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and refine the business case for rationalization and consolidation Define a phased approach that will deliver early benefits Engage with the Information Assurance community to ensure that the controls needed to ensure confidentiality; integrity and availability are designed into the approach from the outset Engage with Public and Private Sector stakeholders to identify those Data Centres which would benefit from consolidation at the earliest opportunity Work with Departments in both Central and Local Government to identify how data can be shared to avoid duplication

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				<p>Develop a Strategy that incorporates both legacy information and new information in the most efficient and cost effective way</p> <p>Work with the industry, to identify and assess alternative investment and commercial models to enable the consolidation to take place</p> <p>Develop the overall programme plan so that implementation can commence as early as possible in 2010.</p>
4	The Government Applications Store (G-AS)	Enabling faster procurement, greater innovation, higher speed to deliver outcomes and reduced costs.	<p>Wirral has a perpetual licence for the Oracle suite and huge investment in CRM.</p> <p>HR, SWIFT, ICS and Revenues and Benefits have been procured for at least 5 years with reviews to extend for a further 5 years. As each comes up for review the provision in the G-AS and G-Cloud would need to be considered</p>	<p>This will ensure the sharing and re-use of online business applications, services and components to prevent the creation of multiple incompatible bespoke solutions.</p> <p>There currently exist more than 10,000 public service applications and applications contracts. This is because it is easier to procure bespoke solutions at a local level.</p> <p>By defining each step in a process as a reusable service users will be able to mash together common components to create</p>

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				<p>tailored solutions that are still compatible with the networks of other public sector providers</p> <p>The G-AS service will be provided free to all public services with the exception of some charges for those components which impact on cost e.g. the Government Cloud usage, support services, helpdesk calls and printouts.</p>
5	Shared services, moving systems to the Government Cloud	Continually moving to shared services delivered through the Government Cloud for common activities.	Move to shared services as the business case directs.	By 2020 this agenda will be provided via the Government Applications Store and Government Cloud. The aim is for the Government to buy services once and re-use many times allowing public sector organisations to purchase the services through a portal.
6	The Common Desktop Strategy	Simplifying and standardising desktop designs using common models to enhance interoperability and deliver greater capability at a lower price.	The current virtualisation programme in support of the SAR would have an impact as the processing would no longer be on a PC. This is in line with the Government Strategy.	<p>The strategy aims to see desktop computing across Government delivered through common models and shared services. There will be a suite of standard desk top designs, including one based on open source operating systems and applications for word processing, email and internet browsing.</p> <p>Between 2012 and 2015, desk top design will evolve to converge with the cloud</p>

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				<p>strategy.</p> <p>All shared utility desktop services will be carbon neutral by 2012</p> <p>Desk top supply chains will be required to conform to sustainability standards by 2015</p> <p>“By 2015 80% of central government desktops will be delivered through a shared utility service with increasing levels of adoption by the wider public sector, including local government.”</p>
7	Architecture and standards	Creating an environment that enables many suppliers to work together, cooperate and interoperate in a secure, seamless and cost-efficient way.	Wirral will observe agreed standards.	<p>All products, services and assets in the public ICT sector will be required to conform to common data, security, architecture and interoperability standards. The current Government Enterprise Architecture Model which enables communication between different public sector bodies through agreed terms and definitions will form the basis for this.</p> <p>Central Technical Officers (CTO) Councils work to develop a common architecture in semantics, syntax, data quality, use rights, authentication, transport and information assurance and governance. This CTO specification of standards will apply only</p>

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				<p>to shared assets not those which are particular to a business area</p> <p>Guidance will be issued (date unspecified) to ensure public bodies follow the appropriate steps in procuring ICT.</p>
8	The Open Source, Open Standards and Re-use Strategy	Levelling the playing field for procurement, enabling greater reuse of existing tools, fewer procurement exercises and enhanced innovation – all at a lower cost.	<p>Wirral has recently adopted Drupal for web development.</p> <p>Open source saves on licence costs but may incur costly maintenance arrangements. Reliable maintenance may not be available meaning the knowledge for development and support would need to be developed in-house. It may be that this support is moved to and provided by the service offered by the Government ICT strategy.</p>	<p>By 2011 public bodies will store and share records of their approval and use of open source software on the G-Cloud.</p> <p>The e-Government Interoperability Framework is being updated to align it with public sector assets identified for reuse (as yet unspecified timeline and asset base).</p>
9	The Greening Government ICT Strategy	Delivering sustainable, more efficient ICT at a lower price.	<p>Green issues are considered in the development of infrastructure projects, e.g. the potential power savings and reduction in travel by staff enabled by the virtualisation project</p> <p>Business Case documentation should be revised to identify the carbon saving of the proposed investment in addition to the</p>	<p>Relevant documents are at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/greening_government_ict.aspx</p> <p>Two targets:</p> <p>In line with the existing Sustainability on Government Estate (SOGE) targets and SOGE definition of carbon neutrality, the</p>

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			usual cost savings	energy consumption of Government ICT on the office estate will be carbon neutral by 2012. Government ICT will be carbon neutral across its lifecycle by 2020.
10	Information Security and Assurance Strategy	Protecting data (citizen and business) from harm – whether accidental or malicious.	ISG have considered the requirements of the Local Government Data Handling Guidelines which are being developed and embedded. IT Services met the Government Connect Code of Connection in 2009 and are working to meet the additional demands of version 4.1.	The ICT strategy promises that "users of information infrastructure will be able to take information assurance for granted without feeling that their effectiveness has been compromised." This aim is to be achieved by 2011. It incorporates elements of the Cabinet Office Data Handling Review.
11	Professionalising IT-enabled change	Building capable people and capable organisations with the capacity to deliver and manage fit for purpose IT-enabled projects and services.	IT Services are reviewing the adoption of the Skills Framework for an Information Age (SFIA), a competency based framework.	The aim is to reduce the amount spent on ICT consultants and contractors by fifty per cent by 2020. The Cabinet Office has already started firmly establishing the IT Profession by introducing the Civil Service Technology in Business fast stream – developing the IT leaders of tomorrow. The Government IT Profession Community space: by 2010 Government will establish a

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				<p>qualifications policy.</p> <p>By 2012 Government will be in a position to influence the provision of industry wide learning, based on robust learning needs analysis across the profession.</p> <p>By 2014 organisations will be equipped to grow their own talent.</p> <p>By 2015 Government will develop an industry wide method of recognising exceptional IT professionalism.</p> <p>By 2015 enable individual and collective knowledge transfer, growth and collaboration between IT professionals through the National Competency leads and the online community.</p>
12	Reliable project delivery	Using portfolio management and active benefits management to ensure that Government undertakes the right projects in the right way.	<p>Wirral has delivered PRINCE II training to many staff.</p> <p>Project assurance has recently been strengthened.</p> <p>OGC guidance on programme development and other tools will need to be reviewed.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Office and the Office of Government Commerce will identify major programmes that are highly complex or with a high delivery risk and provide greater oversight.</p> <p>The National Audit Office report on successful IT projects revealed that public sector IT project failures were no worse than private sector failures although more high</p>

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			Wirral may need to respond.	profile. Since January 2007 a new reporting mechanism for ICT enabled business change, to the PSX (e) Ministerial Committee was introduced. By 2012 the coverage is to be extended to other public sector.
13	Supply management	Working together to gain maximum value from suppliers – both for individual organisations and collectively across the public sector.	The Crown will own the software used across the public sector. Impact for Wirral not clear re negotiation with 'suppliers', it may be the Crown is the supplier.	The CIO Council is" developing a proposition to increase access to government collaborative procurements by small to medium enterprises and local government by June 2010. " The ICT Collaborative Procurement Strategy will transform ICT procurement in the UK public sector. In the future common infrastructure should be bought under a single and well understood set of arrangements, with the Crown as the purchasing authority wherever possible, allowing reuse across the public sector.
14	International alignment and coordination	Ensuring that international treaties and directives reflect UK national	Wirral has already been involved in meeting the requirements of the EU Services Directive.	UK public sector operates in over 145 countries and so the UK Government is working to ensure compliance with EU and treaty obligations.

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		requirements and that the UK remains at the forefront of delivery.	Wirral is presently monitoring progress on the STORK project (Secure idenTity acrOss boRders linKed) e-identity management across Europe.	