

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) STRATEGY 2008-2011

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents an updated draft of the rolling three year Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Strategy. The strategy is continuously reviewed and was approved by Cabinet on 23 July 2008.

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 and Vision for Wirral
- Corporate priorities, aims and objectives
- The Medium Term Financial Plan Strategy
- The Change Programme
- Other Corporate strategies, e.g. the Customer Access Strategy.

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

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

2.3 The ICT Strategy 2007-10 was approved by Cabinet on 6 September 2007.

2.4 The ICT Strategy 2008-11 was considered by the Corporate Improvement Group (CIG) at its meeting on 25 June 2008.

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
- Green ICT

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 along with other related strategies as part of the budget process.

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

4 CHANGES TO THE STRATEGY

4.1 Section 6, Governance, has been updated to reflect the enhanced roll of CIG in managing the Change Programme and the revised role of the Information Strategy Group.

4.2 A new Section 11, Green ICT has been introduced.

4.3 With regards to the HR/ Payroll system, the decision of CIG of 17 June 2008 to recommend the implementation of the Oracle Human Capital Management system is reflected in section 12, Principal Business Applications and section 13, Actions. This is the subject of a separate report elsewhere on this agenda.

4.4 *Other changes to the Strategy are in italics.*

5 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The gross budget of IT Services is £12.5m which excludes the cost of departmental PC purchases met from departmental budgets and estimated at a further £1m per year.
- 5.2 While the cost of desktop equipment is falling due to competition, manufacturing improvements and better procurement, there is a trend away from desktop pc's towards laptop and tablet type devices, for use in mobile working, which are more expensive.
- 5.3 IT Services will investigate further achievable economies through elimination of overlap and duplication and through adoption of Council wide best practice.

6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

8 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

10 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

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

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. ICT Strategy 2007-10 – September 2007.

13 RECOMMENDATION

- 13.1 That the Information and Communication Technologies Strategy 2008-2011 be noted.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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