

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Ann McLachlan
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Governance, Commissioning and Improvement
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Graham Burgess, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

1. LOCAL TRANSPARENCY CODE

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published a revised Transparency Code in October 2014, setting out the requirements of local authorities in publishing open data. The Code sets out the minimum data that local authorities should be publishing, the frequency it should be published and how it should be published. Work is underway to ensure compliance with this Code with first quarter information (1st Sept–1st Dec 2014) scheduled for publication by the 31st December 2014. Data required annually will be first published on 02 February 2015. Data will be refreshed on a quarterly or annual basis thereafter.

2. MEMBER IT

Phase 1 of the Windows 7 project continues to roll out new client devices to staff across the Council and is forecasted to deliver 1,700 Windows 7 machines (desktops, large laptops and small laptops) by the 5th December 2014. Phase 2 will complete the deployment of the remaining replacement machines, including Elected Members and incorporate previously out of scope IT solutions to address business imperatives arising from three other areas; Children's Centres, Adult Learning and Mersey Pension Fund. IT Services are conducting a series of workshops with Elected Members so that they are aware of the options open to them. Elected Members will also be asked to complete an online survey which is designed to assist in planning the deployment of their chosen equipment.

3. COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

A Commissioning Strategy has been approved by Cabinet, which sets out the Councils commissioning vision and objectives, and the approach for achieving them. Through this approach the commissioning activities of the Council will be aligned directly to the overarching vision for the borough as set out in the Corporate Plan.

The aims of the strategy are to:

- To set out the vision and direction for commissioning activity across the Council
- Provide clarity around what we mean by commissioning, procurement and contract management
- Define the basic principles which support all commissioning decisions
- Identify the key outcomes required to make the Council an expert commissioner and client
- Set out how the Council proposes to achieve intended outcomes
- Enable greater personal choice and responsibility
- Deliver the Council's public sector responsibility and equality duties.

Work is now in hand to implement the strategy with officers from across the council meeting to ensure that the key embedding actions are undertaken during the next six months. The key themes of this work include creating a consistent and transparent commissioning approach across the Council; to ensure commissioning is focussed on local needs, outcomes and priorities; supporting a mixed economy of providers; engaging in effective strategic partnerships and maximising efficiencies and value for money.