

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**27 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Corporate and Social Inclusion - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Laing**

#### **ICT STRATEGY**

1. **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to brief Members and seek approval for the ICT Strategy, and to highlight the need for funds required to “pump prime” the strategy.

2. **Recommendations**

1. That Members approve the ICT Strategy.
2. That Members consider the funding requirements of the ICT Strategy when approving the medium term financial plan and during the budget setting process.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)**

The need to have an ICT Strategy in place which directs and governs future ICT investments and projects.

4. **Members Interests**

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council’s code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member’s judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same

purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;

- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.**

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**CABINET DECISION**

**ICT STRATEGY**

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to brief Members on and seek approval for the ICT Strategy, and to highlight the need for funds required to “pump prime” the strategy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Members approve the ICT Strategy.
2. That Members consider the funding requirements of the ICT Strategy when approving the medium term financial plan and during the budget setting process.

**DETAIL**

1. To date, the Council has delivered its ICT services without having an overall strategy in place. Although this has been successful and achieved national e-government targets, the implementation of major systems, the certification to the international standards and very good performance in national benchmarking, it has meant that investments have been made on a tactical basis as opposed to being part of an overall strategic approach. Therefore in the main, ICT investments have been made on a departmental projects basis as services promoted their own agendas. Although successful in implementation, this approach has delivered a large programme of predominantly service based ICT systems.
2. The development of technology is now so integral to the organisation it is time to ensure that a more robust strategic approach to ICT is utilised to drive through and deliver the changes required to meet the challenging agendas which face the Council. Hence the need for an ICT Strategy.
3. The strategy will raise the profile and awareness of the importance of ICT investments and the governance which surrounds these, including benefits realisation. The strategy will also provide a robust and reliable technology architecture underpinning the Council which also acts as an enabler and catalyst for service delivery both within the Council and across our partners.
4. In the development of an ICT Strategy, external input was used to provide market intelligence and input on best practice in both public and private sectors. Facilitated sessions were held with the key stakeholders of CMT and all Service Group Management Teams. Individual meetings were also held with the Corporate Directors and Chief Executive. These sessions were aimed at gaining a wider understanding of service requirements and current practice, and providing a challenge to current views and processes. Ultimately a vision was extracted and

developed, identifying actions for both ICT and the wider governance framework in which it operates. Through facilitation and information sharing with all Service Groups, the ICT Strategy has been developed from the requirements of the Service Improvement Plans, Business Unit Plans and the Council Plan which these ultimately support. The strategy was endorsed by the Extended Management Team (CMT and Heads of Service)

5. The Strategy can be found in Appendix A. In summary, it states an overall aim of achieving improved strategic ICT investment and maximising the benefits in the following areas:
  - Secure remote and mobile working technologies at network and client levels
  - Sound and scalable technical ICT; designed to deliver integration
  - Robust information management and workflow across the Council and with our partners
6. Maximising the benefits from strategic ICT investments is both by the service areas themselves in their drive to deliver service based improvements and by the Council as a whole as it delivers complex partnering and change agendas. To deliver on these aims the strategy identifies key themes for further development:
  - ICT Service Restructure – As part of the Stockton Darlington Partnership
  - ICT Governance - Adopting a set of strategic principles which will form the basis of the Council's ICT governance framework
  - ICT Investment – Funding strategic infrastructure and systems
  - Business Change Programme – Maximising the use of and exploiting the Council's new infrastructure and systems

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

The ICT Strategy identifies a number of initial capital and on-going revenue costs in relation to investments in technologies. These total £11.85m over a ten year period. However, the two areas of Client Technologies and Home Working are anticipated to be cash neutral as they displace existing costs within services. These represent £9.8m of the overall total.

The two remaining areas requiring investment are therefore; Workflow and Mobility Technologies. The business cases when developed for each will examine the detail of these investments, associated service improvements and savings. Currently the costs associated with these two areas have been estimated at £750K capital and £130K annual revenue. This accounts for the remaining £2.05m of the overall total.

### **Legal**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

A risk assessment will be undertaken for each of the business cases when developed.

## **COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Community Strategy associated with this report.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

The development of the ICT Strategy has involved all Heads of Service and CMT.

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Background Papers

Cabinet report February 2007 – Stockton Darlington  
Partnership

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Property