

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	4 February 2021
Subject:	Digital Strategy		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report seeks to present to Cabinet the Digital Strategy 2021 -2023 for Sefton. It will set out how it has been developed, and the proposed next steps in terms of programme development.

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet approve the Digital Strategy 2021 - 2023

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure that the priorities of ICT service delivery and wider digital initiatives are aligned to the delivery of Sefton's 2030 vision and clearly articulated to residents of the Borough.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not Applicable

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

No direct cost implications due to the delivery of the Strategic Documentation, where costs are to be incurred for specific programmes of work the appropriate decision-making process will be followed to obtain approval for any associated spend.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

Financial:

No direct cost implications due to the delivery of the Strategic Documentation, where costs are to be incurred for the delivery of specific projects the appropriate decision-

making process will be followed to obtain approval for any associated spend.

IT:

The strategy will ensure alignment of ICT service delivery priorities to the strategic direction of the authority.

Staffing:

Not applicable

Assets:

Not applicable

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:

This strategy will ensure the delivery of digital services to support all residents across the borough, and ensure that the Council is able to deliver services to the most vulnerable members of our communities, whilst supporting staff to work in an agile way

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

This strategy aims to further develop a partnership approach to service delivery in conjunction with our communities, ensuring alignment to key principles of inclusion as well as recognising the role of voluntary organisations.

Commission, broker and provide core services:

The strategy sets out a strategic direction and clear priorities for ICT and wider digital services over the next two years

Place – leadership and influencer:

The strategy supports the wider 2030 vision for Sefton

Drivers of change and reform:

This project supports the delivery of the Council's ambitious change programme and 2030 vision.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

The strategy is designed to support the wider Growth priorities of the Council

<p>Greater income for social investment:</p> <p>The potential for added Social Value will be included within the underpinning work programmes where appropriate</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener</p> <p>Many of the core deliverables within the strategy, such as Cloud Migration and Cloud Telephony will reduce carbon emissions associated with the operation of the local infrastructure.</p>

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources & Customer Services (FD6253/21) and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4454/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

To ensure alignment of the strategy to the wider Liverpool City Region, (LCR) the author has reviewed associated strategies from LCR colleagues as well as local and regional strategic documentation.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Digital Strategy 2021 -2023

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The exponential growth of digital technology over the last few years has resulted in a significant change in customer expectations. The Council is now operating in a digital world which provides opportunities to not only change the way we work

as a local authority but how businesses operate, how residents can live independent lives and how we connect and educate our young people.

1.2 The Digital Strategy for Sefton is intended to be an overarching plan which articulates the council's ambitions, and is based on key priorities identified within the 2030 Vision for Sefton.

1.3 This high level strategic document is split into three themes

- Connected Council
- Empowered Communities
- Business Growth

1.4 These themes each have priorities within them which seek to

- Use digital technology and solutions to transform and improve the way that the Council operates
- Transform the relationship between the Council and its residents so that our residents have better access to online services and benefit from improved digital inclusion
- Ensure that local businesses benefit from high speed internet connectivity, access to digital skills and can leverage the opportunities afforded by digital technologies

Process of Development

2.1 Significant engagement activity has been undertaken to ensure alignment of the key priorities within the strategy to core business deliverables and the priorities within the 2030 vision for Sefton. However, the digital strategy is deliberately a two-year document, due to the rapid pace of change in this area.

2.2 To ensure alignment to regional and national strategies significant work has been undertaken to ensure that the ambitions within the digital strategy align to work underway across the Liverpool City Region, including work being undertaken by Health Partners such as Clinical informatics groups. Finally, links have been made to national strategies and guidance where these exist for example: the UK Digital Strategy and the NHS Digital Strategy.

2.3 Over the next two years the delivery of the Strategy will be reflected in the development of key programmes of work and associated governance structures. The progress and impact of the strategy will be driven through a Digital Programme board, which will be accountable for the delivery of the key programmes and projects documented with the strategy. The board will be chaired at Executive Director level and will report directly into the Senior Leadership team, with regular progress monitoring via the ICT Strategic Partnership Board chaired by Cllr Lappin, Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services. It is intended to provide an annual report, outlining progress and benefits, to Cabinet in February 2022.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 As highlighted, digital supports many projects within Sefton's 2030 vision, given the many interdependencies and priorities it is essential for the Council to have a clear strategy and plan, to ensure the delivery of both the technology and cultural changes needed. Thereby ensuring that services can be delivered more efficiently, residents are enabled to take advantage of the potential digital brings both at home and in work and that local businesses are empowered to take advantage of new markets to grow and thrive.
- 3.2 Following strategy approval each priority will have a programme of work and associated action plan developed, which will include measurable outcomes to evidence impact and improvement. These programmes of work will link to the overarching Liverpool City Region's Digital Strategy, thus removing any duplication of effort and ensuring the efficient deployment of local capacity.
- 3.4 The Strategy is therefore presented to Cabinet for approval, with immediate adoption following the mandated call in period.