

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of meeting: 3 March 2009
Report of: Performance and Capacity
Title: **The Development of an ICT Strategy**

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** In February Cabinet agreed a general approach and timetable for the production of an ICT Strategy. The purpose of this report is to consider the draft ICT Strategy. Publication of the strategy will not of itself have any immediate financial implications, although obviously it will result ultimately in opportunities for investment and savings.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1** Endorse the ICT strategy, as drafted, to enable it to progress to publication.

3.0 The ICT Strategy Outline

3.1 Business Context

Cheshire East has the opportunity to break new ground in using Information & Communications Technology to improve processes. More importantly, it can bring about improvements for citizens in their daily lives. It used to be said that ICT is a key enabler of local authority services. Now it is more than that – it is at the heart of everything the council does. The strategy has been drafted to set out this agenda for members, staff, partners and the general public. The local agenda is a key component.

3.2 The nature and shape of the Strategy

The Strategy follows the outline agreed by Cabinet which is based on recommendations by the Gartner Group - specialist ICT analysts.

3.3 Technical Strategies

It was noted at Cabinet in February that an ICT Strategy is a high level document which is supported by a range of technical strategies. At the Cabinet meeting in February a template for the Strategy was agreed. The Strategy has now been drafted accordingly. Four of the technical documents have also been produced and appear as appendices to the main Strategy.

- Applications – Appendix A
- Infrastructure – Appendix B
- Finance – Appendix C
- Information Management – Appendix D

The Security Policy has also already been drafted and is the subject of separate consideration. Other technical strategy documents in the course of production are:

- Electronic Desktop Roadmap
- Flexible & Mobile Working Strategy
- Data Centre Services
- Digital connectivity – including a policy on the enablement of local communities

3.4 Principal milestones for development of the strategy

March 2009	draft Strategy to cabinet to agree content
March 2009	add graphics and illustrations; publish on website
March 2009	first technical strategies available
April 2009	produce printed version
April 2009	engagement of partners
July 2009	completion of high priority technical strategies
March 2010	review of Strategy and achievements; update

4.0 Reasons for Recommendation

An ICT strategy document is a key success factor for a modern organisation. It should summarise how the ICT organisation and its services will contribute to the success of the organisation.

For further information:

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Keegan

Officer: John Barrett

Tel No: 01244 972520

Email: John.Barrett@cheshire.gov.uk