

West Wiltshire District Council

Cabinet

1 September 2004

ICT Strategy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a revised ICT Strategy to Cabinet for consideration and approval.

2. Background

Following the re-tendering and letting of a new ICT Facilities Management Contract to Vivista Ltd, the time was right to review the Council's ICT Strategy. This commenced in 2003 with consultation with members and staff on the organisational requirements for the ICT service. In parallel with this, a technical review of the Council's ICT infrastructure was undertaken by Vivista.

These two sources, together with national requirements for e-government, have provided the main inputs for the proposals set out in the revised Strategy.

3. The Strategy

The Strategy aims to provide a broad overview of ICT and the direction it will be taking over the next five years. It also describes some of the key arrangements and procedures involved. It is deliberately non-technical and aims to provide a useful reference for members and officers alike.

The Strategy is supported by other, more detailed documents, principally:

- The Council's Implementing Electronic Government Statement 2003.
- The Technical Infrastructure Review, 2003
- ICT Security Policy (currently under review).

ICT is a rapidly developing area and it is not possible to detail precisely what actions will be taken over a five-year period. Much will depend on the resources made available and the decisions taken through the service and financial planning procedure.

Chapter 4 on "Strategic Direction" outlines the main areas where it is proposed effort and resources are directed. Chapter 5 deals with e-government requirements and outlines the recently specified 'priority outcomes' that local authorities must have in place by the end of 2005.

Chapters 7 and 8 summarise management arrangements and procedures and introduce a number of project management principles that will be applied to all new ICT projects.

The current ICT development plan is shown at appendix 1.

4. Financial Implications

The Strategy itself has no direct financial implications for the Council. Proposals for new projects to deliver the strategy will be brought forward through the annual Service and Financial Planning procedure. Members will be able to consider these against the strategy and wider corporate objectives.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet approves and adopts the revised ICT Strategy.

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