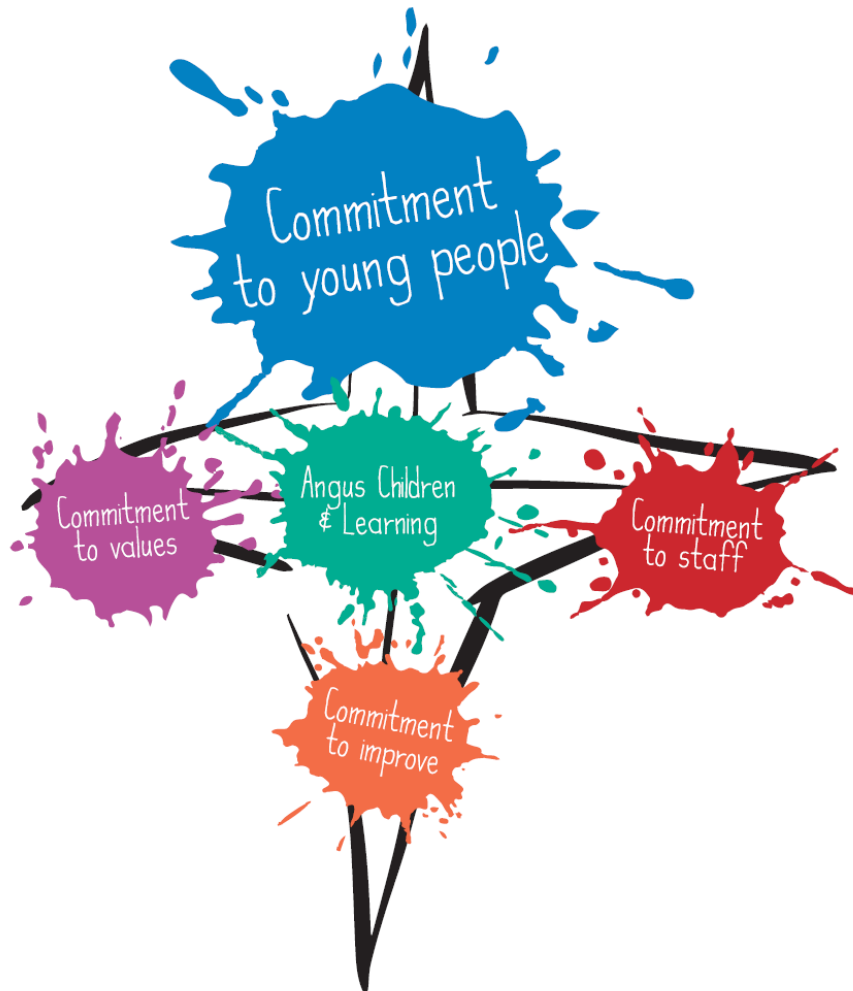




Children and Learning Digital Strategy

2017 to 2020



Connected, equipped, skilled

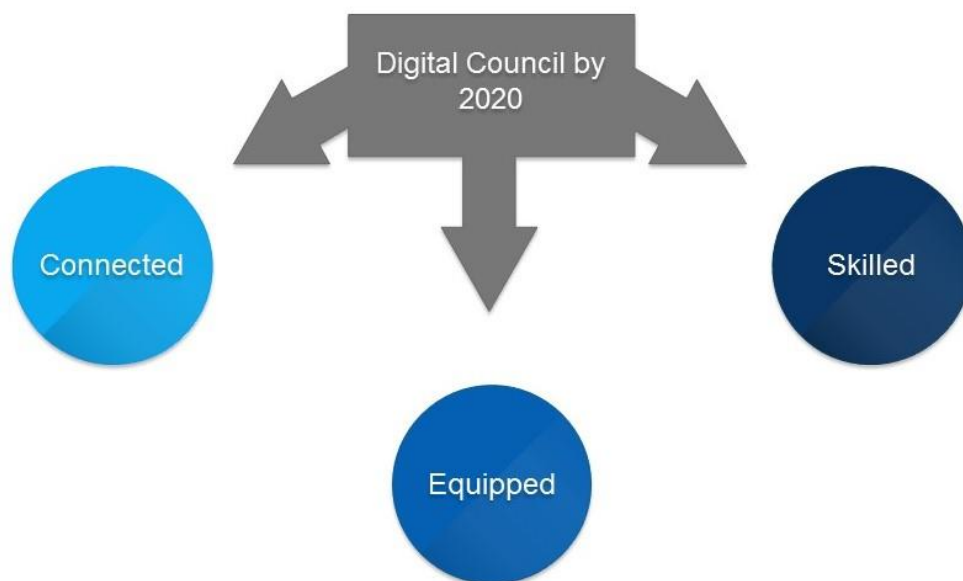
June 2017

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This strategy describes how we will create a digital environment that supports the needs of all of our staff, children, and young people. This is about facilitating and supporting rather than directing specific ways of working.
- 1.2 There are two key areas of focus for this strategy.
- To ensure that all of our employees can work in flexible, agile, digital ways.
 - To encourage all of our staff, children and young people to be confident, curious users of digital technology.
- 1.3 This is not a strategy for learning and teaching in schools. A separate Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy is being developed.
- 1.4 We hope that the strategy is ambitious and provides sufficient flexibility for innovation and development
- 1.5 This digital strategy has been written in 3 main sections.
- Connected
 - Equipped
 - Skilled

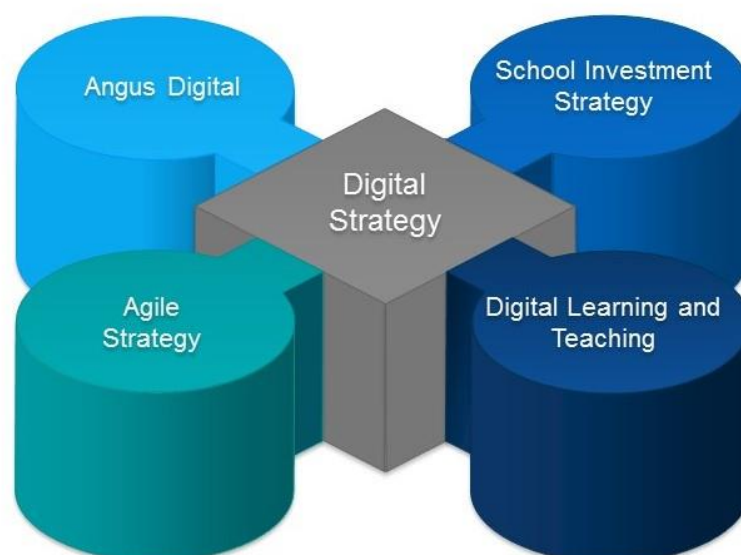


- 1.6 This digital strategy will be supported by detailed implementation plans, which will be managed by the Directorate's Digital Planning Group.
- 1.7 This strategy will be reviewed by December 2018, to ensure that we are delivering on the key objectives.

2 CONTEXT FOR THIS STRATEGY

- 2.1 This strategy has been developed in light of Angus Council's commitment to being a digital Council by 2020. Reference is made to other areas of activity (e.g. agile working), but they are not detailed here to avoid duplication.
- 2.2 The emphasis in this strategy is largely on schools and learning. This is to ensure that we have consistent digital standards and experience in all schools, to provide a suitable environment for digital learning and teaching.
- 2.3 Future iterations are likely to extend across Children and Learning functions. This will support our commitment to focussing on the needs of children and young people.

Figure 1: Links with other key strategies



3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 Connected

- 3.1.1 All schools and facilities will be connected to the internet to an agreed set of standards. This will be based on commercially viable services. We will link closely with – and contribute to – the wider expansion of broadband provision across Angus.
- 3.1.2 All facilities will have wifi capability. This will support our intention to move to wireless and mobile devices, wherever appropriate. We will design wifi networks to take account of the type of activities and technology used in the building. In office buildings, the standards and design will be determined corporately and be replicated in all Angus Council buildings so far as is technically possible.
- 3.1.3 In schools, we will aim for a connection speed of 0.5 mbps per child/young person with capacity for 80% concurrent use. This will inform investment decisions.
- 3.1.4 Wifi provision will be assessed to provide adequate coverage throughout our schools. This will be a more qualitative judgement, given the issues presented by each building.
- 3.1.5 We will use these standards to design all new buildings and refurbishment projects. A programme will be developed to cover all of our properties.
- 3.1.6 We will design our digital infrastructure to allow any device to connect to it. This will support a range of technologies and allow community access where appropriate (e.g. community campuses).
- 3.1.7 We will design our digital infrastructure to meet anticipated demands over a 5-year period. This will require a balance between over-provision and the need for frequent upgrades or replacement programmes.

3.2 Equipped

- 3.2.1 Digital infrastructure will be designed to support any device. Therefore, we will not be committing to a particular provider or type of operating system or technology.
- 3.2.2 Office-based staff will be equipped with technology appropriate to their 'agile workstyle'. This will include the facility to 'bring your own device'.
- 3.2.3 Schools will have the flexibility to use a range of devices, and also allow children and young people to bring their own devices.
- 3.2.4 We will have an increasing emphasis on digital learning as children progress through primary school. We anticipate that each child will have access to their own device by Primary 6. This will fit with our digital learning and teaching strategy and will support the transition to secondary school.

- 3.2.5 We will encourage schools to use platforms such as Glow, where appropriate software can be accessed without incurring additional expenditure.
- 3.2.6 We will establish user forums for each of our core business systems. This will ensure that developments are informed by needs and are prioritised by those using the software.
- 3.2.7 We will assess the ongoing suitability and sustainability of each core business system every 3 years. This will enable us to assess the need for upgrades and or replacements. We will develop a standard approach for conducting these reviews.

3.3 Skilled

- 3.3.1 Learning to use the technology required for the job is an essential part of professional learning and development. Identified training needs will be part of personal development plans. We will encourage the sharing of knowledge and practice and the development of e-learning and other 'easy access' approaches.
- 3.3.2 The Schools and Learning service will establish a virtual digital learning team to support the sharing of knowledge and expertise.
- 3.3.3 Other staff groups and user forums will be encouraged to adopt similar approaches.
- 3.3.4 The management of information security and risks will be managed at school/facility level, and will follow the agreed Angus Council Information Governance policy. Responsibilities and decision-making processes will need to be clearly defined, and where needed, skills gaps addressed.
- 3.3.5 The IT Helpdesk will provide support for office-based staff and 'non-school' facilities.
- 3.3.6 We will develop specific support arrangements to address the use of digital technology in schools and support users of core directorate business systems.
- 3.3.7 We will assess a range of models of support to ensure that the Council has the capacity to maintain the equipment and infrastructure that is implemented.
- 3.3.8 Ongoing ideas and innovation will be channelled via ICT co-ordinators and user forums.