

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2017

DIGITAL STRATEGY 2017-2020

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This report outlines a digital strategy for children and learning to ensure that we are equipped to meet our digital expectations.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) approves the digital strategy for 2017-2020 (Appendix 1); and
- (ii) approves the focus on enhancing connectivity and wifi provision during 2017-2019.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

1. We have a sustainable economy with good employment opportunities
2. Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit
3. Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This is the first digital strategy that has been prepared for children and learning functions. It takes account of the Council's digital strategy and the development of agile working arrangements.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 We have a range of systems, infrastructure and technology available across children and learning. However we do not have a co-ordinated approach to the development of our digital infrastructure.
- 4.2 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.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The draft digital strategy is attached (Appendix 1). It has been developed with colleagues from across children and learning and from the Council's IT service.
- 5.2 Implementation of the strategy will be phased, based on the availability of finance and staff time. The focus over the next two financial years will be ensuring that schools are connected to the Internet, based on the agreed standard. We will also endeavour to have appropriate wifi coverage to support the curriculum and new ways of working.

5.3 Progress on implementing the strategy will be reviewed by December 2018. This will be reported to committee.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Indicative costs 2017-19

Item	Estimated cost (£'000)
Craigowl mast	160
Achieve connectivity standard and enhance wifi	500
TOTAL	660

6.2 Funding available 2017-19

Funding source	Value (£'000)
Revenue funding carried forward	160
Capital allocation	500
TOTAL	660

Ongoing costs

6.3 In addition to the one-off investment described above, there will be ongoing costs. The additional costs for the wide area network will be £110,000 per annum. It is also estimated that maintaining our connectivity standard will require a refreshment programme with an annual cost of £250,000.

6.4 The budget for schools and learning will be restructured to ensure that these costs are met. This will ensure that the investment in improving our network infrastructure is protected.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Les Hutchinson, Head of Corporate Quality and Performance
EMAIL DETAILS: childrenandlearning@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices:
Appendix 1 Digital Strategy 2017-2020