

Place and Resources Overview Committee

17th December 2020

Developing Dorset's Digital Vision

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Corporate Development and Change

Local Councillor(s): Cllr

Executive Director: A Dunn, Executive Director, Corporate Development

Report Author: Dr Deborah Smart

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the Place and Resources Overview committee:

1. Reviews the work of the Digital and ICT EAP and the draft digital vision.
2. Supports the development of Dorset's Digital Vision, making comments suggestions, amendments, additions and changes to the attached draft.
3. Highlights potential key priorities from the digital vision so that these can be developed into a delivery plan for the next 2 years, 2021 – 2023.
4. Reviews the final versions of the digital vision and action plan at the February meeting of the committee and subject to any final changes then, recommends adoption of the Digital Vision and action plan to Cabinet in April 2021.

Reason for Recommendation:

The draft digital vision sets out the aims and ambitions for Dorset Council. There are many areas of activity and the committee is asked to support the development of the Digital Vision and through reviewing the areas of focus from the Digital and ICT EAP assist with the development of an action plan to support its delivery. Once this work is completed and agreed by the committee in February, to subsequently recommend the adoption of the digital vision and action plan by Cabinet in April.

1. Executive Summary

The Digital and ICT EAP met for the first 18 months of the new council and supported officers during that time on a number of key areas of focus. These supported the development and implementation of Digital and ICT projects and the development of the draft digital vision, attached at appendix A.

The Digital and ICT EAP covered the following areas:

- a) Support for members to lead Digital and use technology, including
 - a. Members ICT mentor network
 - b. Members Digital Champions training
 - c. Support for members to complete their casework – through Office 365
 - d. Use of Teams and Teams Live events
 - e. LGA masterclass on Digital Leadership
 - f. Review of options for consolidation of member calendars
 - g. Provide Link back and forth to EAP on Reset and Recovery
- b) Digital Place including connectivity
 - a. 5G – support for rural broadband connectivity bids
 - b. Overview of progress with Superfast Broadband and Full fibre roll-out for Dorset
 - c. Input into the Digital Place Strategy
- c) Supporting progress with ICT and Digital
 - a. Public I and webcasting of meetings from inception to options appraisal and its relation to virtual meetings
 - b. Overseen and reviewed Members seminars – including Digital Days
 - c. Establishing new technology for the new council, including the introduction of O365
 - d. Progress with ICT convergence
 - e. Progress with digital projects
 - i. Digital Planning progress
 - ii. Customer / Digital platform
 - f. Performance measures for Digital
 - g. Review of Digital progress and projects that supported the council's COVID response.

2. Financial Implications

As the committee agrees and amends the digital vision any financial implications will be highlighted and any additional funding requests will be included in the action plan, when referred to Cabinet for adoption.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

As the committee agrees and amends the digital vision any Well-being and Health implications will be highlighted and reflected when referred to Cabinet for adoption.

4. Climate implications

As the committee agrees and amends the digital vision any climate implications will be highlighted and reflected when referred to Cabinet for adoption.

5. Other Implications

As the committee agrees and amends the digital vision any other implications will be highlighted and any additional funding requests will be included in the action plan, when referred to Cabinet for adoption.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: High
Residual Risk: High

The council has a corporate risk, identified as high, which is 'failure to adequately manage the financial position leads to an overspend which is untenable in the medium term'. The projects and activities contained within the digital vision aim to mitigate this risk by focussing resources where needed to deliver Dorset Council's digital transformation.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

An EQIA will be completed once the digital vision is agreed and referred back to the committee in February.

8. Appendices

Draft Digital Vision

9. Background Papers

Notes and minutes of the Digital and ICT EAP

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.