

Cabinet

6 April 2021

Dorset Council'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 Cabinet:

1. Reviews the final versions of the digital vision and action plan attached to this report and subject to any final changes, accepts the recommendation of the Place and Resources Overview Committee on 25th February 2021 to adopt them.

Reason for Recommendation:

The Place and Resources committee met in December 2020 and February 2021 to finalise the digital vision and recommend areas of focus. The later have been pulled together and are reflected in the accompanying delivery plan. Subject to any typographical or minor changes, these documents have been recommended by that committee to Cabinet for adoption.

1. Executive Summary

The attached digital vision and accompanying delivery plan set out the council's digital aims and ambitions, how these will be realised and the measures we will use to know we have achieved them. As we start to move into delivering our projects, we will continue to refine and develop our measures of success to make sure we are measuring the right things in the right way.

These documents have been worked up through processes and events including partners like the NHS, representatives from the community, members of the public, the voluntary sector and the business community. During business breakfasts, Future Dorset and Dorset Reloaded, officers have sought and listened to views that have fed into our Digital Vision. There has also been extensive input from councillors through, initially the Digital and ICT EAP and subsequently the Place and Resources Overview Committee.

2. Financial Implications

The actions set out in the delivery plan will be financed through appropriate funding streams which are already accounted for within the MTFP including the transformation fund and capital allocations for ICT. These alongside Government or LEP grants mean the delivery plan is full funded.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Improving digital connectivity and reducing the digital divide can play an important role in supporting people to live healthy lives. It contributes to the ability for the council within social care and health partners to take advantage of digital equipment, remote monitoring and other emerging technologies to support improvements to health and well-being outcomes.

4. Climate implications

This digital vision improves connectivity across Dorset, supports the development of first class digital services for the council and the ability for excluded members of the public to consume them. It contributes to the council transforming the way it works through the adoption of the Dorset Workplace. These actions are believed to contribute to reducing travel, reducing paper and have other positive contributions to support reduction in carbon consumption.

5. Other Implications

No other implications identified.

6. Risk Assessment

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

Current Risk: High

Residual Risk: Medium

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 and described within the delivery plan aim to mitigate this risk by focussing resources where needed to deliver Dorset Council's digital transformation. This will be managed through the council's transformation governance, monitoring and reporting

progress of all key programmes, reporting from DartBoard to CLT then through to Cabinet and SLT at Leadership Performance meetings.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

An EQIA is attached at appendix A.

8. Appendices

EQIA
Digital Vision
Delivery Plan

9. Background Papers

[Minutes of Place and Resources Overview Committee - 25 February 2021](#)

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.