

**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

## Gravesham Borough Council

**Report to:** Cabinet  
Overview Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Reporting officer:** Director (Corporate Services)

**Subject:** IT and Digital Strategy 2022

### **Purpose and summary of report:**

To inform member of the new Information Technology and Digital Strategy covering the period 2022-2026

### **Recommendations:**

1. This report is for information only.

<b>Key Implications:</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Implications</b>
<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	Resourcing for projects arising from the strategy will be subject to individual business cases which will describe the required IT investment in greater detail.
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	The IT and Digital Strategy will underpin corporate policies, strategies, and business plans to support the delivery of all three corporate objectives (people, place and progress) as part of the 'Golden Thread', a continuous cycle connecting the corporate aims, policy framework and delivery plans of the council, with the actions of Members, officers, and partners at all levels.
<b>Climate Change</b>	The IT and Digital Strategy supports flexible / remote working which reduces the amount of travel required by staff, saving CO2 emissions related to transport. The strategy also supports the greater use of cloud technologies which improves the efficiency of electricity consumption using economies of scale (large data centres are more energy efficient than our small data centre)

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Previously the council has had two separate strategies, one for Information Technology and one for Digital.

- 1.2 The Information Technology Strategy covered infrastructure, such as servers, desktop and laptop computers, mobile devices and telephony. The IT Strategy also covered support of the councils business applications which underpin the delivery of services by all directorates.
- 1.3 The Digital Strategy covered how IT is utilised, which included public facing systems (such as the website) and transformation of business applications to provide more efficient end to end processes and improved user experience for the public.
- 1.4 Over time these two areas have increasingly overlapped such that it now makes sense to combine them both into a single overarching strategy.

## **2. The Strategy**

- 2.1 The overall aim of the strategy is to provide a clear direction of travel for the IT and Digital Teams in order to deliver the technology platforms required by the council.
- 2.2 This direction is articulated via a number of Ambitions, Principles and Objectives.
- 2.3 The contents of the strategy has taken into account the changes in working environment brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, increasing expectation by our customers for technology focussed services, the impacts of our activity on climate change, improving resilience to a cyber-attack, and the move to new office accommodation in 2025/2026.
- 2.4 During the life of the strategy, investment in IT and Digital will be required. Individual business cases will be built which will describe the changes in greater detail and identify sources of funding, any impacts on the Medium Term Financial Plan and IT Reserve.
- 2.5 The portfolio holder for Digital and IT is the Leader of the Executive. The monitoring and reporting of our progress against the strategy will be regularly taken through the Corporate Management Team to the Leader of the Executive, Cabinet, and other committees where there is an overlap of interest (such as the Finance and Audit Committee, and the Performance and Administration Committee).
- 2.6 In addition to this, council members will be briefed on the progress of implementing the strategy via annual training sessions.

## **3. Appendices**

- 3.1 The following documents are to be published with the report:  
IT & Digital Strategy 2022-2026

## **4. Background Documents**

- 4.1 There are no background documents.

**Lead Officer:** Darren Everden, Assistant Director (IT & Transformation)

**Email:** darren.everden@gravesham.gov.uk

<b>Secondary Implications</b>	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The IT and Digital Strategy contains and Assumptions and Risk section which sets out the implications of the strategy.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p> <p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <a href="#">personal data</a> or <a href="#">special category data</a> or <a href="#">criminal offence data</a>? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. No</p> <p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/A</p> <p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a>. N/A</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No</p> <p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. No</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i></p>
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	None
<b>Digital and website implications</b>	The strategy seeks to improve the delivery of our digital and website services.
<b>Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</b>	None