

Cabinet
14th FEBRUARY 2022

**DIGITAL SCHOOLS & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES
2022-2025**

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To approve the content of the Digital Schools Strategy and the Digital Technology Strategy 2022-2025

Reasons:

The strategies have been revised and updated to set out the Council's strategic priorities to underpin the delivery of digital learning over the next 3 years, along with the direction of the digital technologies that will be adapted by the Council to underpin all digital services.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: Policy & Resources Committee.

Cabinet Decision Required	Yes
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Council Decision Required	No
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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Mair Stephens

Name of Head of Service:
Noelwyn Daniel

Designation : Head of ICT &
Corporate Policy.

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1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The strategies have been refreshed to reflect the direction of travel for the Council over the next 3 years in delivering the ambitious plans for digital learning, the authorities Digital Transformation Strategy and to underpin the Council's vision of a "A Digitally enabled Carmarthenshire".

The three-year Digital Schools Strategy outlines where we intend to take the ICT provision within schools over the coming years, to ensure that schools have the appropriate technology to deliver the Digital Competence Framework and the Curriculum for Wales. The overarching principals of the Digital Schools Strategy 2022-2025 are:

- HWB FIRST, CLOUD FIRST APPROACH towards our teaching and learning resources
- Align our Schools ICT provision to the EDUCATIONAL DIGITAL STANDARDS as directed by Welsh Government
- Improve EQUITY OF ACCESS TO DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES for our learners
- RATIONALISE AND CONSOLIDATE TO HWB at every opportunity
- Adoption of NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
- IMPLEMENT ALL CHANGES in a methodical and controlled manner
- Add value through COLLABORATION

The Digital Technology Strategy 2022-2025 sets out the Authority's technology priorities and aspirations over the next 3 years. It identifies the key technologies and initiatives that will facilitate and underpin the vision and delivery of the organisations Digital Transformation Strategy. The overarching principals of the Digital Technology Strategy 2022-2025 are:

- Pro-actively to deal with emerging cyber threats, in terms of underlying infrastructure required to secure our systems and also staff awareness and training, cyber incident exercises and procedures.
- Ensure we have a robust and resilient infrastructure at the heart of everything we do
- Implement all changes in a methodical and controlled manner
- Take advantage of potential benefits and efficiencies through the active investigation, pursuit, and adoption of new and emerging technologies.
- Upgrade aging technologies to ensure they are secure and resilient and explore cloud options for systems that are resource intensive and organisationally restrictive to maintain

- Where there are opportunities to underpin and add value through collaboration, we will do so, locally, regionally, nationally, across the public and private sector
- We will ensure that all solutions in the strategy aim to align with the councils Net Zero Carbon by 2030 pledge.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	Yes Digital Schools Strategy 2022 – 2025 Digital Technology Strategy 2022 - 2025

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **Noelwyn Daniel**

Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

These strategies are aligned to delivering key outcomes of the Corporate Strategy and the Authorities Future Generations Well Being Plan.

2. Finance

Capital finance has been secured to delivery both strategies via the Council's capital program and the WG HWB grant.

3. ICT

There will be a significant impact on ICT resource to deliver the key priorities identified within the Digital Transformation Strategy. The ICT Service has re-aligned to ensure it can deliver these projects.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Noelwyn Daniel

Head of ICT & Corporate Policy

1. **Scrutiny Committee** Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee will be consulted prior to formal consideration at Cabinet.
2. **Local Member(s)** N/A
3. **Community / Town Council** N/A
4. **Relevant Partners** N/A
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** N/A

A 'virtual' Digital Transformation Seminar was held in December 2020 and attended by over 150 senior officers and Heads of Service from across the Authority. The COVID pandemic and delay of the Digital Transformation Strategy refresh due last year has allowed time for a wider consultation and greater input from key stakeholders and service areas; collaborating and working closely with Media and Marketing, Customer Services and TIC on this revised strategy.

Consultation has been done with primary and secondary school heads during 2021 on the Digital School's Strategy.

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Digital Technology Strategy 2018-2021 (previous strategy)		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213936/digi_tech_strat_doc.pdf
Digital School Strategy 2018-2021 (previous strategy)		https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1213938/schools_strat_doc.pdf