

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader and Cabinet 13 April 2006
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IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT

Purpose

1. To note the success of the IEG programme and submission of the Council's *Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Statement 2006*.

Effect on Corporate Objectives

2.

Quality, Accessible Service	The IEG Statement is the fundamental driver for electronic access to all our back office services and e-enabled interaction with the citizen.
Village Life	Improved access to information about public transport.
Sustainability	Reduced travelling and paper usage.
Partnership	Jointly with Serco, Cambridgeshire County Council and other 3 rd party suppliers/providers.

Background

3. Council has previously approved the *Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Statements* in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. These documents have resulted in the award to the Council of capital grants totalling £900,000 from central government (£200K in 2002, £200K in 2003, £350K in 2004, £150K in 2005). The Council has now been asked by central government (the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, ODPM) to produce its final statement, the 2006 version otherwise known as IEG6. This again builds on the successful submission of the 2005 statement and is consistent with its content. Utilising an on-line submission mechanism known as the ESD Toolkit, the Council has declared its electronic government status and its 100% compliance with the requirements and its priority outcomes. As in previous years, we have worked closely with representatives from the County Council and the other District Councils to ensure a common approach and demonstrate working in partnership.
4. The Council's ICT Strategy 2003-2006, which builds on the previous IEG Statements, is in the process of being updated and will now be known as the ICT Strategy 2006 – 2009, the IEG Statement 2006 is now a formal part of this strategy. The revised ICT Strategy will be brought to Cabinet June 2006.

Considerations

5. The IEG Statement continues to focus on the achievement of the priority outcomes and challenges councils to ensure that they are able to provide electronic access to all compatible services. One of the most significant elements is the continuing commitment to the Contact Centre and the integration of associated systems. This is consistent with Cabinet's resolution of 20th June 2002.
6. IEG6 is enclosed as a separate document or can be viewed via the following link:
<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Modernisation/ieg2index.htm>

The statement, as required, was submitted to the ODPM on 10th April 2006. Whilst the services continue to be developed, in terms of the BVPI 157 (Priority Outcomes), the statement is fundamentally no different to that which was submitted in December 2005. Continuing developments in the provision of ICT services mean there have been minor revisions to the descriptive text.

Financial Implications

7. The financing of IEG and ICT is not directly affected by these papers; any additional requirements will be reviewed during the normal budget setting process.
8. It should be noted that the expenditure declared for the 2005/6 financial year has been determined at £918,000 against a previously forecasted £1,260,000. This is entirely due to the ability to use reported 'actuals' rather than 'forecasts'.

Legal Implications

9. None.

Staffing Implications

10. There are no staffing implications directly arising from these papers. However, there are two points to note:
 - (a) Continued implementation of the Contact Centre will move more of the front office operation from service departments into a corporate area as described in the Transformation Project
 - (b) The success of the IEG programme has been an ambitious and notable achievement. However, it will require continued support from within the user departments as well as from the ICT Division. This may be even more challenging than first thought especially under current financial pressures.

Consultations

11. Consultations have included the various ICT cross-departmental groups, neighbouring local authorities, Serco and other suppliers.

Recommendation

12. That Cabinet notes the success of the IEG programme and the IEG Statement 2006.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

IEG Statement 2005
ICT Strategy 2003 -2006
Best Value Continuous Improvement Plan
Cambridgeshire County Council ICT Strategy 2004-2007

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