

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader and Cabinet 9th December 2004
AUTHORS: Finance and Resources Director

IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT

Purpose

1. To note the progress of the Council's *Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Statement 2004* and give delegated authority to the Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder and the Finance and Resources Director for subsequent changes and approval.

Effect on Corporate Objectives

Quality, Accessible Service	The IEG Statement 2004 is the fundamental driver for electronic access to all our back office services and e-enabled interaction with the citizen.
Village Life	
Sustainability	Reduced travelling
Partnership	Jointly with ITNET, Cambridgeshire County Council and other 3 rd party suppliers/providers.

Background

2. Council has previously approved the *Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Statements* in 2001, 2002 and 2003. These documents have resulted in the award to the Council of capital grants totalling £750,000 from central government (£200K in 2002, £200K in 2003 and £350K in 2004). We have now been asked by central government (the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, ODPM) to produce our 2004 version. This builds on last year's version, and is consistent with it's content. The structure has changed, to comply with revised guidelines, and now utilises an on-line submission mechanism known as the ESD Toolkit. 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.
3. The Council's ICT Strategy 2003-2006, which builds on the previous IEG Statements, is being updated and is now to be known as the ICT Strategy 2004 – 2007, the IEG Statement 2004 is now a formal part of this strategy. The revised ICT Strategy will be brought to Cabinet early 2005.

Considerations

4. The current draft of the IEG Statement 2004 is attached as Appendix 1. The IEG Statement 2004 is not due to be presented to ODPM until 20th December 2004, but it was agreed with the Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder that it should come to Cabinet for approval prior to its submission and to Council for endorsement. Some of the detail to be included in the statement is incomplete at this stage. It is recommended that approval of changes subsequent to the Cabinet meeting is delegated to the Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder and the Finance and Resources Director.

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.

Financial Implications

6. The financing of IEG and ICT is not directly affected by these papers, but the requirements will be reviewed during the forthcoming budget setting process.

Legal Implications

7. None.

Staffing Implications

8. There are no staffing implications directly arising from these papers. However, there are two points to note:
 - Continued implementation of the Contact Centre will move more of the front office operation from service departments into a corporate area (as envisaged in PWC's Organisation Review).
 - the IEG programme continues to be ambitious, and will require adequate staffing from within the user departments as well as from the ICT Division. This may require secondments of staff into projects as they become more defined.

Consultations

9. Consultations have included the various ICT cross-departmental groups, neighbouring local authorities and ITNET.

Recommendations

10. That Cabinet,
 - (a) notes the progress of the IEG Statement 2004.
 - (b) That Cabinet approves the delegation and approval of subsequent changes to the Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder and the Finance and Resources Director prior to submission to the ODPM on 20th December 2004 with the final copy being distributed to all members when available.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: IEG Statement 2004

ICT Strategy 2003 -2006

Best Value Continuous Improvement Plan

Cambridgeshire County Council ICT Strategy 2004-2007

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Members are encouraged to refer questions or concerns to the contact officers before the meeting, due to the complexity of the subject.