Notice of:	**EXECUTIVE**
Decision Number:	EX34/2017
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	9 October 2017

ICT/DIGITAL STRATEGY 2017-2022

1.0   Purpose of the report:

1.1   To consider the final version of a new ICT/Digital Strategy to enable Blackpool and the Council to benefit from developments in digital technologies in support of the wider Council Plan.

2.0   Recommendation(s):

2.1   To adopt the proposed ICT/Digital Strategy as attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report.

2.2   To note the linkages between the Council's two main priorities and how digital technologies can support and enable their delivery

2.3   To note the risk of how Blackpool could be left behind other destinations and towns without a strategy and investment in this area.

3.0   Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1   To ensure Blackpool and the Council are able to take advantage of the continually developing digital opportunities.

3.2a   Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?   No

3.2b   Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget?   Yes

3.3   Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

4.0   Council Priority:

4.1   The relevant Council Priorities are:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0   Background Information

5.1   The world is changing quickly and digital technologies are shaping it more than ever before. The Council's ambition to maximise the economy and build a more resilient community cannot be realised without the support of digital technologies. Blackpool's success as a resort and destination will increasingly depend on enriching the visitor experience with enabling digital technologies if it to compete with other destinations. The younger generation now expect digital as a default. To stay relevant and grow relevance with this generation Blackpool cannot afford to ignore this trend.

5.2   The strategy breaks down into four themes, which set the direction of travel and work plan.
- Digital Customer
- Digital Workforce
- Digital Place
- Digital Collaboration

It is not the intention for the strategy to sit in isolation from other Council plans but to seek to influence them and encourage innovation within them.

5.3   The Strategy outlines a number of risks, which it seeks to address. Of particular relevance are the increasing cyber risk and the new General Data Protection Regulation due to come into force in May 2018.

5.4   Does the information submitted include any exempt information?   No

5.5   **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 2a: ICT/Digital Strategy 2017-2022

6.0   Legal considerations:

6.1   The Strategy supports the development of the Council's compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulation due to come into force in May 2018, which replace and enhance current Data Protection Legislation.

7.0   Human Resources considerations:

7.1   The Strategy seeks to address the updating and development of digital skills within the Council's workforce

8.0   Equalities considerations:

8.1   The Digital Place theme seeks to address concerns around digital inclusion and skills development, access to high-speed connectivity for the community and businesses.

9.0   Financial considerations:

9.1   The Strategy provides a narrative to seek external funding for digital developments but also has implications for how the Council invests and spends its budgets on technology infrastructure, which previously may not have been associated within the realms of ICT spending.

10.0   Risk management considerations:

10.1   See 5.3 above. The Strategy contains a section on risks.

11.0   Ethical considerations:

11.1   The plan reflects and the Council's values and corporate priorities

12.0   Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1   The Strategy has undergone consultation with Directorate Management Teams and at the Council's Transformation Board. The Head of ICT Services has also sought informal advice and support from peers within the Society of IT Managers (SOCITM).

13.0   Background papers:

13.1   None.

14.0   Key decision information:

14.1   Is this a key decision?   Yes

14.2   If so, Forward Plan reference number: 18/2017

14.3   If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days?   No

14.4   If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0   Call-in information:

15.1   Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to
          be exempt from the call-in process?   No

15.2   If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0   Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

          Date informed: 29 September 2017   Date approved:

17.0   Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1   None.

18.0   Executive decision:

18.1   The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. To adopt the proposed ICT/Digital Strategy as attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive report.

2. To note the linkages between the Council's two main priorities and how digital technologies can support and enable their delivery

3. To note the risk of how Blackpool could be left behind other destinations and towns without a strategy and investment in this area.

18.2   **Date of Decision:**

9 October 2017

19.0   Reason(s) for decision:

To ensure Blackpool and the Council are able to take advantage of the continually developing digital opportunities.

19.1   **Date Decision published:**

10 October 2017

20.0   Executive Members in attendance:

20.1   Councillor Blackburn, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Cain, Campbell, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith and Mrs Wright

21.0   Call-in:

21.1

22.0   Notes:

22.1   The following non-Executive members were in attendance: Councillors Singleton and L Taylor.