

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Cabinet**

**23 October 2025**

**DIGITAL STRATEGY**

**Report of Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership and Finance**

Classification: This report is public

Report By: David Vickers, Communications, Marketing and Design Manager

Contact Officer: David Vickers, Communications, Marketing and Design Manager

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**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To seek Cabinet approval of the Council's Digital Strategy 2025–2030, which sets out a five-year roadmap for digital transformation aligned with the Council Plan. The strategy aims to improve service delivery, increase efficiency, promote digital inclusion, and enhance resident engagement through innovation, data-driven decision-making, and collaborative leadership.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Cabinet approve the Council's Digital Strategy 2025-2030 which sets out a five year roadmap for digital transformation, aligned with the Council Plan. The strategy aims to improve service delivery, increase efficiency, promote digital inclusion and enhance resident engagement through innovation, data driven decision making and collaborative leadership

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Cllr Nigel Barker, Leader of the Council

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**IMPLICATIONS**

**Finance and Risk:** Yes ☒ No ☐

**Details:** The strategy outlines actions that may require investment in digital infrastructure, training, and service redesign. These will be managed within existing budgets or subject to future funding bids. Risks include implementation delays due to legacy systems and digital exclusion, which are mitigated through the inclusion plan and agile delivery.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):**                      **Yes** ☒                      **No** ☐

**Details:** The strategy includes commitments to cybersecurity, data privacy, and compliance with accessibility regulations and the Equality Act 2010.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

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**Staffing:**        **Yes** ☒                      **No** ☐

**Details:** The strategy promotes digital upskilling, cross-functional collaboration, and cultural change. It may impact staffing structures and require training and support.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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## DECISION INFORMATION

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £125,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £310,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None

<b>Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:</b>	
<b>Stage 1 screening undertaken</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2</li> </ul>	Yes, superseded by stage 2
<b>Stage 2 full assessment undertaken</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report</li> </ul>	Yes, appended.
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cabinet</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SMT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: Leader, SMT, Service Managers, Staff, Public and Scrutiny

<b>Links to Council Plan priorities;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A great place that cares for the environment</b></li> <li><b>A great place to live well</b></li> <li><b>A great place to work</b></li> <li><b>A great place to access good public services</b></li> </ul>
All of the above

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 The Council's digital transformation journey is a key enabler of its wider strategic ambitions.
- 1.2 The Digital Strategy 2025–2030 builds on previous investments in Microsoft 365 and sets out a clear vision for improving services through technology.
- 1.3 The strategy responds to increasing demand, financial pressures, and the need for inclusive, accessible services.
- 1.4 It aligns with national policy and local priorities, including digital equity and smart district development.

### 2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The strategy sets out four digital ambitions: Easy, engaging and inclusive; Simple, stable and secure; Well-used and used well; Collaborate, share, innovate.

- 2.2 It includes a detailed action plan with measurable outcomes, timelines, and lead responsibilities.
- 2.3 Key initiatives include system reviews, AI integration, digital literacy programmes, and improved customer journeys.
- 2.4 The strategy will be monitored and adapted through feedback, performance data, and stakeholder engagement.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The strategy provides a comprehensive, forward-looking framework for digital transformation.
- 3.2 It supports the Council's priorities and addresses challenges such as digital exclusion, service complexity, and resource constraints.
- 3.3 Endorsing the strategy enables coordinated delivery and accountability across services.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Not adopting the strategy would risk fragmented digital development, missed opportunities for efficiency, and reduced service quality.
- 4.2 A less ambitious approach would not meet the expectations of residents or the demands of modern service delivery.

## **DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

Appendix No	Title
1	Digital Strategy 2025-2030
2	Equality Impact Assessment Stage 2
<p><b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	