

# Report of the Chief Executive of Bradford Council to the meeting of Wellbeing Board to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

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## Subject:

**Bradford District Digital Strategy**

## Summary statement:

This digital strategy sets out an ambitious programme of activity for Bradford District, through the lens of three central pillars,

1. **Laying the foundations for success** – by creating the environment to prosper. This includes investing in digital infrastructure, a low carbon energy infrastructure, skilled workforce, digital inclusion and cyber security.
2. **Improving our capabilities in emerging technologies** – such as industry 4.0 technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and the emerging technologies in driving future productivity to ensure Bradford is at the forefront of technology development and use.
3. **Lifting our ambitions on digital growth** – a range of initiatives to drive the green economy and building a dynamic and emerging technology sector.

## EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Equality assessments – The strategy is underpinned by the District Plan and addresses inequalities that some people experience in accessing digital resources across the

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District.

**Portfolio:**

**IT and Transformation**

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**N/A**



## 1. SUMMARY

The Bradford District Digital Strategy is designed, to transition Bradford as a community and place into the future where it has integrated the best of digital and smart technologies to improve the lives of the citizens of Bradford District and support the District's priorities for Clean Growth.

## 2. BACKGROUND

➤ A summary of the strategy is available in appendix A, The strategy is made up of 3 central pillars:

- **Laying the foundations for success** – by creating the environment to prosper. This includes investing in digital infrastructure, a low carbon energy infrastructure, skilled workforce, digital inclusion and cyber security.
- **Improving our capabilities in emerging technologies** – such as industry 4.0 technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and the emerging technologies in driving future productivity to ensure Bradford is at the forefront of technology development and use.
- **Lifting our ambitions on digital growth** – a range of initiatives to drive the green economy and building a dynamic and emerging technology sector.

It is an enabling strategy to our District Plan and our Economic and Clean Growth aspirations and proposes a set of initiatives that we can collectively work on in order to support the District's ambition of becoming one of the UK's smart cities and leading digital economies in the next 5 years. The initiatives range from:

- those already funded and currently being implemented, (such as the multi-million-pound commitment on digital connectivity across the District)
- to those in the pipeline with planned investments, (such as the £150k investment in the Digital Twin expansion)
- to those requiring a collective ambition, partner collaboration and business case-led strategic investment in funding and commitment.

The presentation in appendix B and strategy summary in appendix A provide further details on the roadmap and ambitions for the District's digital transformation.

## 3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

➤ The Digital strategy supports our District Plan ambitions and underpins the outcomes of the plan.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- Full details of financial appraisals are details in appendix A.

#### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

The overall governance on monitoring progress and co-ordination will be through the Wellbeing Board (6 monthly updates) and Wellbeing Executive (quarterly updates). Programme delivery governance will be developed as appropriate and utilising the Council's new programme management methodology.

#### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- If there are no legal issues arising from this paper.

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

##### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- The Digital strategy supports the Council's Clean Growth strategy.

##### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

- None arising

##### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- None arising

##### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

- None arising

##### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

- None arising

##### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

- The Digital strategy aims to improve digital access across the District and will therefore provide improvements in access across all wards in the DiStrict

##### **7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

None arising

##### **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

None arising

## **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

None arising

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

## **10. Recommendations**

➤ The Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Note the Strategy, provide feedback on themes, gaps, activities.
2. Endorse and support its aim and objectives
3. Be the ultimate Strategy Board and receive annual reports to the Wellbeing Board on progress of the implementation of the Digital strategy based on the outcomes of the delivery plan.
4. Encourage and support stakeholder collaboration and co-ordination in the relevant activities set out in the strategy roadmap and be a focal point to ensure all dots are connected.
5. Support the formal launch of the strategy in March to be confirmed
6. Commit to contributing to a future stakeholder visioning session on the Smart Place vision for Bradford District.

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix A-District Digital Strategy

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Background documents are documents relating to the subject matter of the report which disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based, and have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report. Published works are not included.
- All documents referred to in the report must be listed, including exempt documents.
- All documents used in the compilation of the report but not specifically referred to, must be listed.