

## CABINET

16 March 2019

### DIGITAL RUTLAND STRATEGY 2019-2022

#### Report of the Chief Executive

Strategic Aim:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable Growth</li><li>• Reaching our Full Potential</li></ul>	
Key Decision: Yes	Forward Plan Reference: FP/301118	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr O. Hemsley, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Rutland One Public Estate & Growth, Tourism & Economic Development, Communications and Growth and Resources (other than Finance)	
Contact Officer(s):	Libby Kingsley, Digital Rutland Project Manager	01572 720983 lkingsley@rutland.gov.uk

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet approves the draft Digital Rutland Strategy 2019-2022 (attached as Appendix A).

## **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve the draft Digital Rutland Strategy 2019-2022 (attached as Appendix A).

## **2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1 The draft Digital Rutland Strategy 2019-2022 is an update on the Local Broadband Plan submitted to Broadband Delivery UK (part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) in 2012 for funding to improve broadband connectivity in Rutland. That plan was focussed on delivering next generation fibre broadband connectivity (initially at 15 Mbit/s and then at 24Mbit/s speeds) to support the Government targets of achieving 90% and then 95% superfast broadband coverage across the UK by December 2017.
- 2.2 The Government is now looking to meeting future technology requirements and positioning the UK globally as part of the Future Infrastructure Telecommunications Review. The review set out two ambitious targets of 15 million premises connected to full fibre by 2025 and nationwide coverage by 2033. It has also set out an ambition for the UK to be a world leader in 5G, with the majority of the population covered by a 5G signal by 2027. Currently full fibre is available to c.7.52% of premises in the UK and 19.67% of premises in Rutland<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.3 Our strategy builds on the superfast connectivity provided for under the Digital Rutland project (expected to rise to over 97% on completion of Phase 3) and on extending full fibre coverage through a number of mechanisms. It recognises the link between improved full fibre coverage and providing the necessary backhaul to support the further roll out of 4G and emerging 5G mobile broadband.
- 2.4 The draft strategy is attached (Appendix A) and supports the vision and strategic objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-2020. It also supports the delivery of the UK government's ambitions together with other key local strategies and plans as set out in Section 9.0 of the strategy. Our intention is to work with local stakeholders on the delivery of the strategy.
- 2.5 The draft strategy has six aims .These Aims are listed in the order they appear and not necessarily in their order of importance.
- Aim 1 - Building on Superfast Broadband Connectivity
  - Aim 2 - Extending Full Fibre Coverage
  - Aim 3 - Facilitating 4G and 5G Mobile Broadband
  - Aim 4 - Connecting Businesses to New Opportunities
  - Aim 5 –Enabling Digital Delivery& Service Transformation
  - Aim 6 –Ensuring Digital Inclusion

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<sup>1</sup> Think Broadband , May 2019 <https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/>

### **3 CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 This report seeks Members' approval for the draft Digital Rutland Strategy 2019-2022 attached as (Appendix A). The strategy has been reviewed internally across directorates.
- 3.2 The strategy sets out a summary table of the key actions to deliver the aims.

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 There is no legal requirement for Council to produce a Digital Strategy.
- 4.2 The Council is required to provide an updated Digital Strategy to support bids to central government. In addition an updated local digital strategy takes account of the Council's priorities and aspirations in other local strategies and plans and provides the digital framework to support these. The strategy has a broad scope that supports sustainable economic growth, innovation and inclusion.
- 4.3 If Council decided not to proceed with an updated strategy then it would instead be reliant on a local broadband plan for the County last published in 2012 .This does not reflect changing requirements for more reliant and future proofed broadband services( both fixed and mobile) provided over full fibre networks.

### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The draft Digital Rutland Strategy 2019-2022 includes delivery of a Local Full Fibre Networks project part funded by the Council and by DCMS under the government's Local Full Fibre Challenge fund. The financial implications for this is covered in an earlier report to Cabinet (Report No 212 2018).

### **6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council is not legally required to produce a Digital Strategy but it is recognised that an updated strategy setting out the Council's ambitions and digital aims provides a digital framework for the Council, for other Council strategies and plans and to support external funding bids as these become available.
- 6.2 Any further projects that support delivery of the Digital Rutland Strategy 2019-2022 will be subjected to funding approval, procurement and contracting procedures.

### **7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant risks/issues were found. A copy of the DPIA can be obtained from the Digital Rutland project manager.

### **8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 An equality impact assessment screening has been undertaken and there are no

adverse effects. The strategy includes a specific aim of supporting digital inclusion.

## **9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The provision of improving digital infrastructure (both fixed and mobile) contributes towards road safety (reduction on physical journeys required) and in facilitating technologies, products and services which build resilience in communities.

## **10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Maximising both full fibre and superfast broadband coverage increases the ability to deliver public services more efficiently and to facilitate the “Internet of Things” whereby devices are talking to each other without human intervention and beneficial to both health and well-being particularly for our most vulnerable residents.
- 10.2 In addition the take up and exploitation of technology over high quality broadband networks enables better health, education and economic outcomes deemed critical to closing inequality gaps.

## **11 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **11.1 Environmental Implications**

- 11.2 No direct implications, although strategic alignment with the Council’s IT strategy of adopting more digital processes and transactions, and better digital data management, will reduce the amount of paper documents that are printed out and distributed. In addition access to digital networks can reduce the requirement to travel thereby improving the environment.

### **11.3 Procurement Implications**

- 11.4 There are no direct procurement implications from the draft Digital Rutland Strategy. Where funding applications are made that require procurements these will be dealt with under the Council’s Finance and Contract procedures and separately approved by Cabinet and Council.

## **12 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 The production of a Digital Rutland Strategy 2019-2022 is not a statutory requirement. Instead it sets out a strategic framework for the period 2019-2022 that supports the delivery of a number of the Councils’ priorities and objectives and delivery of other local strategies as well as supporting the UK government ambitions.

## **13 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 13.1 Reports previously provided to Cabinet / Council relating to Digital Rutland
- Report 43/2011

- Report 108/2011
- Report 192/2011
- Report 145/2014
- Report 55/2012
- Report 140/2017
- Report 212/2018
- Report 60/2019

## **14 APPENDICES**

### 14.1 Appendix A- Draft Digital Rutland Strategy 2019-2022

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.