
IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Don Bristow,
Resource Management Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the requirements to produce an Implementing Electronic Government 2004 Statement, more commonly referred to as IEG4 and seek approval for the attached IEG4 Statement.

Background

2. The Council is required to complete a fourth Implementing Electronic Government statement (IEG4) and submit it to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) no later than the 20th December, 2004. The statement takes the form of a 'pro-forma' that will be submitted electronically, some details have still to be collected but because of the timescales a draft copy is attached as **Appendix 1** for your information. We are therefore seeking approval for the Director of Corporate Services to make any necessary changes ahead of its submission in December 2004.
3. It is a requirement of the IEG4 process that Council agrees the statement before it is submitted to the ODPM.
4. The format of the IEG4 statement will facilitate easy comparisons to be made between councils by the ODPM, other Council's, journalists and citizens.
5. Members may recall that each of the IEG1 and IEG2 statements resulted in £200,000 capital grant being awarded to the Council and IEG3 awarded a further £350,000 to assist with the implementation of the Councils e-government strategy.
6. The above funding has resulted in the introduction of a Council Intranet and the successful re-launch of the Council's website with work continuing to achieve a 'transactional' site and meet the ODPM's Priority Services outcomes.. The funds have also allowed additional modules for specific IT systems to be implemented across all areas of the Council to improve services to the citizen, these include Art Centre & Civic Theatre booking on-line booking system, Dolphin Centre on-line booking system, on-line application for school places, a further GIS module and also a £100,000 contribution to the purchase of the CRM system that is currently nearing the end of its procurement process.
7. A successful IEG4 submission will result in a further £150,000 capital grant being awarded to the Council..

8. Any funds which are made available can be used to further develop electronic facilities to assist the citizens of Darlington, such as improved access to services, more website facilities and improved business processes.

Outcome of Consultation

9. Consultation with all internal departments has taken place.

Legal Implications

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

12. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

Recommendation

13. Council are requested to :-
 - (a) Approve the attached IEG4 statement
 - (b) Allow the Director of Corporate Services and the Council's Officer e-champion to make any necessary changes to the statement to reflect any further guidance which may be issued and include any additional information that will strengthen the Council's IEG4 statement ahead of its submission to the ODPM.

Reasons

14. The recommendations are supported to allow the Council to meet the requirement of submitting an IEG4 statement on schedule and qualify for the £150,000 capital grant.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

IEG4 proforma
Ken Walker : Extension 2367
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