
IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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

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

Purpose of Report

1. To present to Members a preview of the Implementing Electronic Government 2006 (IEG6) statement ahead of its submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

Background

2. As you are aware the ODPM has since 2001 required Councils to prepare IEG statements each year to measure their progress towards meeting the BVPI 157 target and Priority Service Outcomes.
3. Grants, totalling £900,000 have been awarded to all councils who submitted suitable statements over this period. Darlington Borough Council received this full award.
4. This particular IEG return marks the end of the IEG programme and will be used as a key reference document in the audit process for assessing how related grant funding has been used.
5. “Excellent” CPA authorities are, however, requested to continue to comply with requests for IEG data in order to assist in benchmarking national progress, to demonstrate their commitment to e-government and appropriate use of IEG capital grant.
6. The Statement must be submitted to the ODPM by midday on Monday 10th April 2006 and it is a requirement that the Statement be approved by the Council prior to its submission.
7. I have therefore attached a copy of the IEG6 as it currently stands as **appendix A**.
8. As Members will note the BVPI 157 target of having all services e-enabled by the end of 2005 has been achieved and good progress on the Priority Outcomes has been maintained.
9. Required outcomes had to be Green (achieved) by the 31st December 2005, whilst Good outcomes must be Green by 31st March 2006.
10. All Required outcomes have been reported as Green at 31st December 2005, with only one Good outcome currently being shown as not achieving Green status by 31st March 2006, this is G17.

11. The G17 Priority Outcome requires ‘Joint assessments of the needs of vulnerable people (children and adults), using mobile technology to support workers in the field.’.
12. Whilst, a Single Assessment Process (SAP) has been operational in Darlington since 2004, the use of mobile technology is not yet in place for this and it is for this reason that we are assessing our positions as Amber.
13. A mobile technology solution is currently being trialled in the Repairs and Maintenance Project and if this proves successful this can form the basis for solutions in other areas of the Council such as SAP and Housing Benefit Assessments.
14. The Council have taken a pragmatic approach in our self assessment with regard to our status on each of the Priority Outcomes. The status of each has been challenged at service level and reflects the consensus view of the Corporate IT Working Group.
15. A brief comment on many of the outcomes is included in the IEG6 statement and where more work is required to reach a 100% green status this is mentioned.

Legal Implications

16. 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

17. 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

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

Recommendation

19. Council are requested to :-
 - (a) Approve the IEG6 Statement based on the content of **appendix A**
 - (b) Allow the Director of Corporate Services who is also the Council's Officer e-champion to make any necessary changes to the statement to include any additional information that will strengthen the Council's IEG6 statement ahead of its submission to the ODPM.

Reasons

20. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) It supports the Council's Electronic Government Strategy and IEG statements.
- (b) It will allow the Council to deliver the priority services as identified by the government.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers
IEG6 statement

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