SOAP

Strategy on a Page

Digital Inclusion Strategy

Vision or Policy Statement

Basildon Council's ambition is to improve digital connectivity, accessibility, and skills across the borough to ensure that residents can contribute and benefit from existing and emerging digital technologies. As they will have the confidence to navigate services online and the awareness and understanding to be motivated to engage with technology. To improve their wellbeing and realise the associated benefits to their lives through being educated and empowered to participate. A Digital Inclusion Strategy will allow for a council-wide approach that prioritises each of these elements of digital inclusion, to deliver against the Council's targeted outcomes.

Targeted outcomes through the delivery of the strategy:

As per the Council Digitla Inclusion Policy

- Improved digital skills across the borough through providing greater opportunities to acquire new skills at home and in the workplace
- That all residents can benefit from the opportunities of existing and emerging technology through a greater understanding of the benefits of modern technology
- Residents have greater access to digital devices through removal of financial barriers
- *Improved connectivity through a full fibre and 5G network across the borough starting with a 100% coverage of superfast broadband across the borough.
- The identified benefits of digital technology will be accessible by all with no resident being excluded

Corporate Plan and policy links:

The Corporate plan centres around people, place, and prosperity. The strategy's objective is about improving people's lives, through offering them new skills and opportunities. Ensuring accessibility by working with the Council's partners to make Basildon, as a place to live more socially connected, through utilising technology. Through the strategy's delivery the Council will improve people's prosperity and that of the borough as a place to live. As the strategy is part of developing a digital economy in the borough, which is an essential requirement in terms of the borough's long-term prosperity.

As per the Council's corporate plan, organising for delivery (4.2), the leaders of the Council have declared it will enhance digital capabilities. This strategy demonstrates the Council's commitment to delivery against that objective as through tackling specific areas such as connectivity, accessibility, and skills the Council are empowering the possibility of its residents to secure the benefits of a digital world, through creating the capability for its residents to prosper through the understanding and use of modern technology.

The vision of the strategy as a programme of work is set out in the Council's Digital Inclusion Policy and described within the targeted outcomes of the Council's policy.

What success looks like

Each project / initiative to be included within the Council's strategy will be required to provide evidence of how the action taken has contributed to tackling identified issues and the delivery of targeted outcomes. Success results in all the residents of the borough being aware of the opportunity and capable of accessing the benefits of technology, through removing any financial barriers and providing the chance for residents to acquire the essential digitla skills.

Resource and other implications

On launch of the strategy, its delivery will be funded by already secured funds. As the Council gather further insight with the delivery of key objectives the Council will be able to better determine the exact needs of its residents to then secure further funding for additional initiatives to be included in the strategy's programme of work.