

Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11th January 2019
Subject: GM Digital Strategy Implementation Update
Report of: Cllr Andrew Western, Portfolio Leader – Digital and Tony Oakman,
Lead Chief Executive - Digital

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update and seek the view of members on progress in the implementation of the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- Review and provide feedback on the actions that have been taken to implement the GM Digital Strategy since its approval in February 2018.

CONTACT OFFICERS

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Background papers

The following is a list of the background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100D (1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents, which would disclose exempt or confidential information as identified by that Act.

https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/download/meetings/id/3564/item_6_digital_strategy_implementation_plan_update

https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/download/meetings/id/2956/12_digital_strategy

https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/download/meetings/id/2957/12a_digital_strategy

The above papers and documents may be inspected during normal office hours at GMCA, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The GM Digital Strategy was approved by the Combined Authority on 23 February 2018. The final Strategy was the outcome of extensive development and consultation including with this Committee, the GM LEP, and engagement with partners in industry, the public sector, academia and voluntary and community groups including at the two GM Digital Summits in July and December 2017.
- 1.2 The potential of large-scale digital adoption is both critical and transformational for Greater Manchester's continued economic growth and for the challenges we face to ensure that growth is inclusive. As such, the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy is key to the implementation of the Greater Manchester Strategy and crosses and enables the majority of priorities set out in the GMS. It will also inform the Greater Manchester Industrial Strategy which is currently being developed.

2. THE GREATER MANCHESTER DIGITAL STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Digital Strategy sets out a vision that Greater Manchester will be one of the best places in the world for developing and harnessing digital technology to generate growth and improve people's lives. Greater Manchester will be a Digital City-Region with a Difference in terms of its open and innovative approach, and in how it uses digital technology to drive improvements across all areas of economy, society, and all geographies.
- 2.2 The Strategy sets out the digital assets and strengths Greater Manchester has, and how that critical mass can be used to accelerate the adoption and integration of digital technologies. The Strategy also sets out some of the challenges to achieving our vision, these include infrastructure, productivity, inclusion, skills and talent, digital public services and marketing and communications.

3. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

- 3.1 Since the Strategy was approved, work has been taken forward by a cross-cutting team of GMCA officers working with partners across the public, private and academic sectors under the following core themes:
 - Infrastructure;
 - skills & talent;
 - growth and productivity;
 - inclusion;
 - communications and marketing
 - public service digitisation
- 3.2 Responsibility for implementing the Strategy in the CA lies with the Portfolio Leader for Digital City-Region, Cllr Andrew Western. Implementation is overseen and supported by the GM Digital Steering Group, whose membership comprises key influencers in the sector from industry, academia and the public sector. The Group is co-chaired by the Portfolio Leader and Tony Oakman, Chief Executive of Bolton Council. The Steering Group last met on 19 November 2018 and will meet again on 11 February 2019.

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- 3.3 To support the Digital Steering Group and scrutiny of progress, GMCA officers have developed a dashboard to report on activity in support of the GM Digital Strategy.
- 3.4 The latest dashboard is attached for discussion.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that officers are now starting work to refresh the GM Digital Strategy and there will be a verbal update to Scrutiny.
- 3.6 As activity is ongoing, we will also verbally update Scrutiny on digital input to the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy.