Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Subject: Strategic Projects

Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Lion

Recommending:

That the report of the Strategic Projects Portfolio Holder be noted.

Strategic Projects –Digital Strategy

Digital Innovation Zone: Work continues on the £2.1m DCMS funded Local Full Fibre Network Project led by EFDC to take it through the DCMS Assurance process. On 23 January 2020, the Building Digital UK Projects Assurance Board formally assured Checkpoint B - 'Ready To Procure' Checkpoint following evidence submitted by the DIZ team. The Checkpoint was approved with three conditions imposed plus a number of actions to be undertaken. In addition to addressing these conditions and actions, work is now focused on preparing for the Checkpoint C Assurance Board and a provisional date of 27th February has been set. Progressing through Checkpoint C will prepare   the   project   to   be   'Ready   to   Contract'.

Digital First: The Council, has recently had an application to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Digital Declaration programme approved and has been published as a signatory to the declaration on the MHCLG Digital Declaration website https://localdigital.gov.uk/commitments/. The application was centred on two projects, firstly the DIZ Common Asset Register project that is creating a mapping tool across the five districts of the DIZ to illustrate the extent and location of the public-sector estate, and, secondly, the EFDC Citizens Online project to address digital exclusion within Epping Forest district.

The 'Digital First' team, an internal council working group, has been established to promote and coordinate the use of technology and applications within the council and to ensure digital initiatives are coordinated. Thereby maximising the opportunity for shared developments.

London Stanstead Cambridge Corridor Consortium (LSCC): The DIZ continues to work with the LSCC and North London Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Pand sill be delivering a conference on February 25th at BT Tower, London. Sponsored by BT, the "Be Part of the Next Generation of Digital Adoption", the conference will include a showcase of initiatives around digital adoption, covering technology, infrastructure, investment and skills.