ITEM **6**

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	16 October 2019
OFFICER	Area Commander Calum Bell
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor David Hopkins
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	**ICT Strategy 2019-2024**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	The new ICT strategy is designed to deliver the following underlying principles: • to use technology to provide a resilient, reliable and secure platform to enable our colleagues to work from any location at any time with equipment appropriate for the wide variety of tasks they undertake; • The strategy builds upon the previous Knowledge and Information Services (KIS) Strategy 2014–2019 (approved by the Executive Committee in 2014) and the KIS Strategy Update received by the Executive Committee in 2015; • The strategy aligns and supports the Public Safety Plan / Corporate Plan 2015 to 2020 updated in March 2019 and will be reviewed when replacement documents are released; • The systems which support the Service will provide a consistent user experience, utilising modern 'Social Media' type interfaces, reducing repetitive input of data and exploiting the value of the information we hold whilst complying with the General Data Protection Regulation; and, • to ensure that systems provide value for money and are fit for purpose whilst providing security and compliance appropriate for the data.
ACTION	Decision
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the ICT Strategy 2019-2024 be approved.
RISK MANAGEMENT	Information Security is one of the most significant risks currently on the Corporate Risk Register. ICT security is a fundamental part of our layered approach

	to managing this risk. The new strategy puts information security at the heart of developing our ICT services for the Service, while also ensuring our systems support the development of our service delivery and support services.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no direct financial implications with this strategy. As software and hardware are refreshed, any budgetary implications will be catered for through the usual budget challenge processes. In the past, the effective use of underspends and invest to save projects have provided organisational benefits through developing our ICT capabilities. These include the Business and Systems Integration project and the ICT disaster recovery project.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	No specific legal implications are envisaged as a result of this strategy.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	The [Policing and Crime Act 2017](#) requires the Authority to keep opportunities for collaboration with the police and ambulance services under review. A number of existing collaborations with Thames Valley fire and rescue services currently exist in relation to software. The ICT requirements of the collaborative fleet procurement have also been delivered collaboratively. The Emergency Service Mobile Communications Programme is being delivered collaboratively at blue light agency regional level. Our current wide area network infrastructure is currently delivered in collaboration with Buckinghamshire County Council. These arrangements will be reviewed as part of this strategy.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications envisaged from this strategy.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	The required Impact Assessments have been undertaken. It is envisaged that there are likely to be positive impacts due to development of the strategy providing increased opportunities for flexible working.
USE OF RESOURCES	This strategy is linked to Strategic Enabler 2 of the Corporate Plan 2015-2020: *Information Management Systems and Processes: to ensure that risk, performance, financial and management information is accurate, relevant and delivered to users in an efficient, timely and reliable way.* **Communication with stakeholders** A staff consultation exercise has been undertaken and a survey was also conducted of our staff to develop an understanding of our staff's ICT needs now and in the future. **The system of internal control**

	The delivery of the ICT strategy is monitored through the Performance Management Board.
	The medium term financial strategy The delivery of the new strategy will broadly sit within the current ICT department budget. Any significant development through either hardware, software or migration of services, which requires new money, will be examined using the normal budget challenge processes.
	The balance between spending and resources As above.
	The management of the asset base There are no significant impacts on the asset base.
	Environmental Development of mobile applications, new telephony and equipment will enable greater connectivity and support greater conference calling and virtual meeting ability therefore reducing travelling. It is anticipated that during the course of this strategy there will be a migration of services to cloud providers. Cloud provision is generally regarded as a greener alternative. This will reduce our own server reliance and also the costs of powering them and the associated air handling.
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	**Background** Four Year Knowledge and Information Services (KIS) Strategy, 17 September 2014 https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/8614/5554/9957/ITEM_8_EC170914_Four_Year_Knowledge_and_Information_Services_Strategy.compressed.pdf KIS Strategy 2014-2019 Review and Progress Report.
APPENDICES	Appendix A: ICT Strategy 2019-2024
TIME REQUIRED	10 Minutes
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