

## Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Report to Scrutiny Board (City Development)

**Date: 27 April 2016**

### Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Digital Inclusion

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### Summary of main issues

- 1 At the meeting in June 2015, the Scrutiny Board (City Development) considered its work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year and resolved to undertake an inquiry into Digital Inclusion
- 2 Terms of reference for this inquiry were agreed in September 2015 when the Scrutiny Board stated that the purpose of the inquiry would be to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
  - The city approach to reducing the digital divide and enhancing the economic prosperity of individuals and small enterprises.
  - Infrastructure, internet access and connectivity across Leeds
  - Improving digital literacy. The provision of education, learning and equipment to provide the necessary skills, confidence and support to embrace technologies.
  - Partnership working including the co-ordination of activity, identifying what adds value and the management of practice and spend to minimise fragmentation and duplication.
  - To inform the development of a Digital Inclusion Strategy that supports the city's aspirations for the citizens and communities in Leeds.
- 3 The inquiry was conducted over three evidence gathering sessions which took place between October 2015 and December 2015.

- 4 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised". Any advice received will be reported at the Board's meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report. Advice is currently being sought therefore the inquiry report will be presented as late substantive information but will be circulated in advance of the meeting on the 27th of April 2016.
- 5 Any advice received will be reported at the Board's meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report.
- 6 Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations within three months.

### **Recommendations**

- 7 Members are asked to consider and agree the Board's report following its inquiry into Digital Inclusion .

### **Background documents**

- 8 None used<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.