

By: Eric Hotson, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services
To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 10 October 2017
Subject: Digitalisation and the Elected Member

Summary: This report seeks support from the Selection and Member Services Committee to a cross party group to explore ways in which greater use of technology and development of existing resources, for example the KNet Members' Area, can be further developed.

1. Introduction

- (1) Greater use of technology and the digitalisation of operations and information continues to be one of the key drivers for building capacity, developing efficiency and driving out savings.
- (2) As the Lead Member for support to Members and Member development I am keen to ensure that elected Members play a full and active part in this process, for the benefit of the existing elected Members and future generations of Councillors. It is my view there are many opportunities for us to explore which will be beneficial to us all.

2. Background

- (1) In recent years we have made some good progress in the use of electronic systems to assist Members – the Members' expenses system and development of the KNet Members' Area to name but two.
- (2) There are considerable savings to be made by using the equipment we have been provided with for discharging our role as an elected Member and by using the mod.gov programme for receiving our Committee agenda and papers. Members will be aware that the Commissioning Advisory Board now operates paperless.

3. Cross Party Developmental/User Group

- (1) I cannot drive the future digitalisation of systems which will help assist Members in their role alone. I need the cross party support of other Members.
- (2) I therefore propose to establish a cross party developmental/user group to advise me and this Committee to take a range of initiatives forward.

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to support my proposal to establish a cross party developmental/user group to make recommendations to me on the digitalisation of services and operations which will help elected Members discharge their role.

Paul Wickenden
Democratic Services Manager (Members)
17 August 2017