



## THE BUSINESS BOARD

<b>BUSINESS BOARD</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No: 2.1</b>
<b>23 September 2019</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY DIGITAL SECTOR STRATEGY**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1. This paper introduces the presentation from the Strategy authors to outline the context of the report and the delivery of the strategy.
- 1.2. The presentation and following discussion aim to support the Board on formally adopting the strategy and prioritising the recommended interventions from the Digital Sector strategy that was first noted by the Board in March 2019.
- 1.3. Any interventions agreed as priority for delivery by the Business Board will require Officers to work up business case and explore funding options before bringing back to a future Business Board meeting for recommendation to Combined Authority Board for funding.

<b><u>DECISION REQUIRED</u></b>	
<b>Lead Member:</b>	<b>Austen Adams, Interim Chair Business Board</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>John T Hill, Director of Business and Skills</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref: N/a</b>	<b>Key Decision: No</b>
<p>The Business Board is recommended to:</p> <p>Agree the adoption of the Digital Strategy with delivery of key priority interventions and authorise Officers to work with partners on business cases for delivery and funding sources.</p>	

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Digital Sector Strategy was commissioned in November 2018 after procurement exercise that appointed Cambridge Wireless (CW) to deliver the strategy.
- 2.2. The strategy was developed during period December to April by CW working closely with Anglia Ruskin University and involved consultation with multiple organisations and businesses involved in the Digital sector, with final drafted strategy shared in March 2019.
- 2.3. CW led the development of the Digital Strategy, at the request of the Combined Authority Board. Local authorities, public sector partners, and the business community have been engaged in creating a strategy that sets out how the growth of the Digital sector will underpin the area's vision as a leading place in the world to live, learn and work.
- 2.4. The final strategy has 9 recommendations derived from the consultations and feedback, refined, tested with stakeholders and consultees and cross-referenced against other strategies including the Local Industrial Strategy [LIS]. This strategy has contributed content into the final LIS and Business Board is asked to consider the presentation given by CW on the recommendations in this strategy and after discussion agree prioritising the key interventions to be brought forward for delivery by the Combined Authority and/or local partners.

### **DIGITAL SECTOR LEADING OUR FUTURE ECONOMY**

- 2.5. Also in line with the LIS, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER), and before that the East of England Science and Innovation Audit in 2017, this Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Strategy identifies and supports the growth of the DIGITAL sector that contributes to our future economy.
- 2.6. This includes strategic growth sectors in knowledge intensive industries, Manufacturing, Agri-Tech, Life Sciences as well as Digital sector itself. The LIS established that each strategic growth sector should be supported by the Combined Authority to produce a sector strategy which provides in-depth analysis of the opportunities and makes recommendations for the public sector and private sector to consider going forward.
- 2.7. The Digital sector strategy contains a range of considerations beyond the LIS, CPIER, SIA and therefore presentation from the authors and discussion at this Board meeting to determine which interventions the Business Board will prioritise.

## HOW THE STRATEGY WILL BE DELIVERED

- 2.8. There are 9 High level domain areas with recommendations/interventions outlined but can be condensed into a total of six categories which subject to Business Board prioritisation and proposed business case coming forward to the Combined Authority for approval via the Business Board at a future meeting. Much longer-term delivery interventions will need to be considered through the lens of future funding sources but also businesses and partners leading the sector need to be encouraged to jointly self-fund some of the interventions.
- 2.9. The priority recommendations/interventions set out in the Digital Strategy are categorised into six high-level categories of recommended delivery:
1. **Networking** is a solution for businesses to meet potential suppliers, partners and customers.
  2. The supply of a sufficiently **skilled workforce** across all levels of the digital sector is critical to the success of this region.
  3. The region needs to act now to make its **digital infrastructure** internationally competitive and to provide the platform needed for local businesses to innovate.
  4. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's GVA growth targets do not exist in isolation. The digital sector operates in an increasingly connected, collaborative and competitive national and **international environment**.
  5. The colocation of businesses and the provision of affordable **space** within which start-ups can seed and grow is essential for the establishment of effective knowledge transfer systems, accelerating the growth of the digital sector and increasing its impact on vertical markets.
  6. Finally, the region has a huge opportunity to cement its position as global centre of expertise in the development and commercial exploitation of **Artificial Intelligence technology**.

## 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications as the recommendations discussed in this Digital Strategy, and the interventions prioritised to take forward to explore delivery, will require business cases to be worked up by partners or Officers which would then be presented to the Business Board and CA Board for subsequent approval..

## 4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications.

## 5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant implications identified.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR NATURE**

6.1 None

## **7.0 OTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 None

## **8.0 APPENDICES**

8.1. Appendix 1 – Digital sector strategy

<b><u>Background papers</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Digital Strategy	<a href="#">C&amp;P Digital strategy</a>
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER)	<a href="http://www.cpier.org.uk/">http://www.cpier.org.uk/</a>
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)	<a href="#">C&amp;P LIS</a>