

Committee(s): Public Relations and Economic Development (PRED) Sub Committee – For information General Purposes Committee of Aldermen – For information Policy and Resources Committee – For decision Education Board – For information	Date(s): 03/09/2018 04/09/2018 06/09/2018 13/09/2018
Subject: Digital Skills Strategy for 2018-23	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Department for Community and Children’s Services Damian Nussbaum, Director of Economic Development Office	For decision
Report author: Sufina Ahmad, Corporate Strategy Manager	

Summary

This paper presents the proposed final version of the City of London Corporation’s (City Corporation) Digital Skills Strategy for 2018-23. The vision for the strategy is: *‘People and businesses, across the City, London and beyond, are equipped to take advantage of digital technologies and innovations to help themselves and their economies thrive.’* It commits the City Corporation to working with others, internally and externally, to respond to current and future digital skills needs and opportunities to enhance the City’s competitiveness, encourage digital creativity and ensure digital citizenship, where people feel digitally included and safe.

The strategy, which aligns to our Corporate Plan for 2018-23, has been developed by a cross-departmental Digital Skills Group with representation from the Department for Community and Children’s Services (DCCS), including City Corporation family of schools, the Economic Development Office (EDO) and City Bridge Trust (CBT). These departments will also oversee much of the work relating to the strategy’s delivery. Alderman Peter Estlin is the Member Champion for this strategy. The strategy is therefore being taken in September 2018 to Public Relations and Economic Development (PRED) Sub Committee, the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen and Education Board for information, and to Policy and Resources Committee for decision.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- i. Approve the proposed final version of the Digital Skills Strategy – subject to any changes discussed in today’s meeting being incorporated.
- ii. Note the proposed next steps for its delivery.

Main Report

Background

1. Since September 2017, a Digital Skills Group has been convened monthly by Andrew Carter, Director of DCCS and Damian Nussbaum, Director of EDO, who are the joint Senior Responsible Officers (SRO) for this strategy. The group includes Alderman Peter Estlin and Common Councilman Henry Colthurst. Alderman Estlin will be, subject to election, the Lord Mayor for the City of London from November 2018 for one year and has agreed to be the Member Champion for this strategy. Alderman Estlin is passionate about the digital skills agenda and will focus his mayoralty on the theme of 'Shaping tomorrow's City today'.

The Strategy

2. The Digital Skills Group has discussed and analysed the City Corporation's current and future work on digital skills, and has identified three priority areas: digital competitiveness, digital creativity and digital citizenship. A one-page outline of the strategy was shared with Education Board and PRED Sub Committee in May 2018 for Member input and steer. The feedback received has been incorporated in to the Digital Skills Strategy at Appendix One. The second page of this appendix summarises the strategy, in terms of its vision, priorities, outcomes and activities.
3. The strategy defines digital skills as the set of skills, attitudes and values that enable people and businesses to thrive and flourish in current and future digital environments. It is felt that the scale and potential for the City Corporation on the digital skills agenda is significant – hence the need to develop a five-year strategy. It provides a strong platform from which our outward-facing digital skills work with multiple stakeholders across different sectors and geographies can be developed and delivered.
4. In order to share the Digital Skills Strategy publicly in November, at the start of the 2018/19 Lord Mayoralty, Policy and Resources Committee is asked to approve the strategy today. If there are any changes required following today's discussions, then these will be incorporated into the final 'designed' version of the strategy, which will include infographics and pictures, before it is shared internally and externally.
5. The Corporate Strategy Manager is also working with the Corporate Affairs Team and Mansion House colleagues to ensure that the messaging that is being prepared for the Lord Mayoralty as a whole in 2018/19, is aligned with the messaging within this strategy.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

6. This strategy supports the City Corporation to fulfil its vision, as outlined in its Corporate Plan for 2018-23, for a '*vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK*'. The strategy supports all three aims that are outlined in the Plan of *contributing to a flourishing society, shaping outstanding environments and supporting a thriving economy*, and nine of the 12 outcomes that are listed as part of these aims.

7. It also links to our strategies on: Employability, Education, Skills, Cultural and Creative Learning, Bridging Divides (City Bridge Trust's five-year strategy), Philanthropy, Social Mobility, Culture, Culture Mile and Culture Mile Learning.

Implications

8. The Digital Skills Group will continue to meet on a monthly basis to design and implement the activities relating to this strategy, before and after it is shared publicly later in the year. Funding for a Project Manager to lead on coordinating the implementation of this strategy is being sought through the Priorities Investment Pot. As far as it is possible, all other work will be delivered through existing departmental budgets and resources.
9. The activities relating to the first year of this strategy can be summarised as: four influencing events with cross-sectoral stakeholders, a curriculum pilot in our Academies, the continuation of the She Can Be programme via The Lord Mayor's Appeal and a variety of work aimed at promoting work readiness. These activities are being designed by the Digital Skills Group, and will be delivered by DCCS, the City Corporation family of schools, CBT, EDO, Mansion House and the The Lord Mayor's Appeal Charity. A small group of external advisers is also likely to be convened by Alderman Estlin to support the successful delivery of the strategy.

Conclusion

10. Members are asked to approve this organisation-wide strategy that has been developed collaboratively with leadership from the Digital Skills Group, and inputs from officer and Member governance groups, and various external stakeholders that are expert in current and future digital skills needs.

Appendices

Appendix One - Digital Skills Strategy for 2018-23 – Proposed final version

Background Papers

PRED Sub Committee - Digital Skills Strategy for 2018-23, May 2018

Education Board - Digital Skills Strategy for 2018-23, May 2018

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