

<b>Subject of assessment:</b>	Information Strategy			
<b>Coverage:</b>	Cross-cutting			
<b>This is a decision relating to:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Function</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Process/procedure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Programme</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Project</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Review</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Organisational change</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other (please state)</b>		
<b>It is a:</b>	<b>New approach:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Revision of an existing approach:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>It is driven by:</b>	<b>Legislation:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Local or corporate requirements:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Insert short description, using the following as sub-headings:</p> <p><b>Statutory drivers</b> - There is a complex legal framework under which we must protect, manage, share and disclose information, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)</li> <li>• Digital Economy Act 2017</li> <li>• UK General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (UK GDPR)</li> <li>• Data (Access and Use) Act 2025</li> <li>• Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015</li> <li>• Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005</li> <li>• Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)</li> <li>• Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003</li> <li>• Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI)</li> <li>• Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)</li> <li>• Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1998</li> <li>• Human Rights Act 1998</li> <li>• Computer Misuse Act 1990</li> <li>• Local Government Acts 1972, 1985, 1988 and 1992</li> <li>• Public Records Act 1958</li> <li>• Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Differences from any previous approach</b> - the Strategy builds on the previous Information Strategy to ensure the Council has a planned approach in place to ensure it has good data management, data is used and reused ethically and the Council is in a position to use data to transform.</li> <li>• <b>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries</b> – staff, the public, partners, businesses, Members, regulators</li> <li>• <b>Intended outcomes</b> – delivery of the vision for the information strategy - the right information will be available to the right users, at any time, accessible and used ethically to support achievement of the Council Plan</li> </ul>			

<b>Live date:</b>	September 2025 onwards
<b>Lifespan:</b>	September 2025 – September 2029
<b>Date of next review:</b>	Progress against the Strategy will be reviewed annually within the annual SIRO report to Audit Committee.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<b>Human Rights</b> Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The strategy will positively support human rights. The Strategy sets out how the Council will adhere to the legislative framework which governs information governance and has due regard to rights to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.</p> <p>Evidence used to assess this includes analysis of the strategy and government and regulator guidance on ethical use of data.</p>
<b>Equality</b> Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Council has a duty to consider the impact of the proposal on relevant protected characteristics to ensure it has due regard to the public sector equality duty. The duty means the Council must have due regard when taking decisions to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;</li> <li>b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;</li> <li>c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy will have a positive impact on this duty by ensuring that ethical use and reuse of data is at the heart of the Council's Information Strategy. The strategy also includes a commitment to a data charter which will set out how the Council will ensure that data is used to safeguard against the risk of unintended bias that could exist within emerging technologies such as AI.</p> <p>There are no concerns that the strategy could result in a disproportionate adverse impact on a group or individuals because they hold one or more protected characteristics because the strategy includes safeguards to prevent this.</p> <p>Evidence used to assess this includes analysis of the strategy and government and regulator guidance on ethical use of data.</p>
<b>Community cohesion</b> Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Strategy will support the Council to understand its communities through better use of data it holds and will support it to safeguard community cohesion in the town.</p> <p>Evidence used to assess this includes analysis of the strategy and government and regulator guidance on ethical use of data.</p>

\* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
<b>Armed Forces</b> Could the decision impact negatively on those who are currently members of the armed forces of former members in the areas of Council delivered healthcare, compulsory education and housing policies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy will support the Council to understand demand in this area to better meet its legal duties and demonstrate this. Evidence used to assess this includes analysis of the strategy and government and regulator guidance on ethical use of data.
<b>Care leavers</b> Could the decision impact negatively on those who are care experienced?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effective use of data across the Council will positively impact on care leavers by ensuring their needs are better identified and also support compliance with rights that care leavers may wish to exercise to access information about themselves and their care. Evidence used to assess this includes analysis of the strategy and government and regulator guidance on ethical use of data.
<b>Reducing Poverty</b> Could the decision impact negatively on the Council's ambitions to reduce poverty in the town?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effective use of data will better support the Council to understand poverty and the drivers of poverty and enable the Council to focus its resources on tackling this. Evidence used to assess this includes analysis of the strategy and government and regulator guidance on ethical use of data.
<b>Next steps:</b> ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.				

<b>Assessment completed by:</b>	n/a	<b>Head of Service:</b>	Ann-Marie Johnstone
<b>Date:</b>	n/a	<b>Date:</b>	17/7/2025

