

EDUCATION DIGITAL LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The main purpose of this report is to inform the Community Services Committee of the current consultation taking place in regard to the development of a Digital Learning Strategy for Scotland. The final Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy is scheduled for the Spring of 2016. After the publication of the final document Argyll and Bute Education Service will be required to review current practice and establish a strategy to ensure that all learners will have access to appropriate technology to help them to realise their potential and explore skills for lifelong learning. In responding to this requirement it is proposed that an Argyll and Bute Digital Learning Strategy is prepared for publication in Autumn 2016.

In September 2015, the Scottish Government launched a consultation document which outlines a vision and areas for focus which will lead to the development of a National Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland (appendix 1).

Response to this consultation document is to be completed by the 15th of December 2015 and Argyll and Bute Education Service will prepare a response.

- 1.2 Digital technology has the rich potential to support Education in Scotland's schools in a wide variety of ways, and is vital to ensure that our children and young people are equipped with the essential digital skills they will need to flourish in the 21st century. A well-defined strategy will contribute to the embedding of digital technology in learning and teaching across the curriculum.

The Draft National Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland builds on the important work delivered to date across Scotland to support digital learning and teaching. It summarises evidence from research and engagement with stakeholders about the impact of digital technology on important priorities for education in Scotland. From the evidence the Scottish Government and its partners have identified the following key themes and proposed activities which provides for the focus to assist the full potential of digital technology whilst supporting positive educational outcomes for all.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Community Services:

- Note that Argyll and Bute Education Services currently utilise learning technologies in a range of ways to deliver the curriculum across all of our educational establishments.
- Note that the consultation taking place which will inform the development of a final National Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland to be published Spring 2016 (as described in section 1.1).
- Note that Argyll and Bute Education Service will undertake a full review along with partners of the current strategy to produce A Digital Learning Strategy for Argyll and Bute in line with the National Strategy. This strategy will be developed in Autumn 2016.

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Digital technology is embedded in all aspects of modern life. Outside of our schools, children, young people and adults alike have access to technologies today that are transforming how they connect, share, work and play in innovative and exciting ways.

Argyll and Bute Education Services have, and continue to support learning technologies as an important feature of the delivery of high quality learning and teaching.

The Scottish Government is planning a number of key curriculum developments which will require teachers and learners to be confident and competent in the use of technology. Argyll and Bute schools, teachers and pupils in responding to this ambition will require the necessary skills and knowledge to equip them to embrace any changes.

Argyll and Bute Education Services have been delivering learning technology across the curriculum through the following vision:

“Argyll and Bute will be a 21st Century learning community whose learners are prepared to excel in a complex, interconnected changing world. To this end:

- We will ensure access to appropriate digital tools and resources to meet the needs of all learners;
- We will be adaptable and flexible in response to evolving and emerging technologies;
- We will promote the understanding of safe, legal and ethical use of digital information and technology, and
- We will support our staff in developing the skills they need to help pupils learn in a digital society”.

Argyll and Bute Education Connected Vision paper 2013 (appendix 2)

- 3.2 Development of Learning Technologies currently focuses on the following key themes:

Infrastructure – this is connected with networks, wireless, and ability for personal devices and technologies to connect, the right band with capacity to

support increased pupil devices. A variety of projects have been taking place including the Lync Pilot at Tarbert Academy, Bring Your Own Device at Oban High School and the Education Domain Project within the Secondary Schools and a pilot at Ardrishaig Primary School.

Devices – the increased amount of and appropriate mix of laptops mobile devices and PCs and Apple devices available to schools as part of the current ICT provision to schools.

Pedagogy – the science of the way technology is used in learning and for learning. Pupils using technology that is relevant for them and helps them acquire digital literacy skills. The ways in which we use content, tools and services that are available from any device at any time including distance learning.

Supporting Leaders – Head Teachers and leaders require support from the service to take ICT in learning forward in schools and develop a vision with pupils.

Staff Continuing Professional Development – how we provide staff with practical opportunities to enhance their knowledge and acquire necessary skills for application.

Transforming Culture – the ways in which the service ensures the use of learning technologies is inclusive and relevant, accountable and engages with communities.

Developing a Workforce- the ways in which we as a service develop opportunities for pupils to access learning technology skills which will lead to employment opportunities in the digital market place.

- 3.3 The Scottish Government launched in September 2015 a consultation document which outlines a vision and areas for focus which will lead to the development of a National Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland (appendix 1).

Response to this consultation document is to be completed by the 15th of December 2015. Argyll and Bute Education Service will respond to this consultation.

The final Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy is scheduled for the Spring of 2016. After the publication of the final document Argyll and Bute Education Service will be required to review current practice and establish a strategy to ensure that all learners will have access to appropriate technology to help them to realise their potential and explore skills for lifelong learning. In responding to this requirement it is proposed that an Argyll and Bute Digital Learning Strategy is prepared for publication in Autumn 2016.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that Community Services:

- Note that Argyll and Bute Education Services currently utilise learning technologies in a range of ways to deliver the curriculum across all of our educational establishments.
- Note that the consultation taking place which will inform the development of a final National Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland to be published Spring 2016 (as described in section 1.1).
- Note that Argyll and Bute Education Service will undertake a full review along with partners of the current strategy to produce A Digital Learning Strategy for Argyll and Bute in line with the National Strategy. This strategy will be developed Autumn 2016.

5.0 DETAIL

5.1 Digital technology has the rich potential to support education in Scotland's schools in a wide variety of ways, and is vital to ensure that our children and young people are equipped with the essential digital skills they will need to flourish in the 21st century. A well-defined strategy will contribute to the embedding of digital technology in learning and teaching across the curriculum.

5.2 The Draft National Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland builds on the important work delivered to date across Scotland to support digital learning and teaching. It summarises evidence from research and engagement with stakeholders about the impact of digital technology on important priorities for education in Scotland. From the evidence the Scottish Government and its partners have identified the following key themes and proposed activities which provides for the focus to assist the full potential of digital technology whilst supporting positive educational outcomes for all.

5.3 Key themes

The four key emerging themes are:

- Empowering leaders of change to drive innovation and investment in digital technology for learning and teaching;
- Improving access to digital technology for all learners;
- Ensuring curriculum and assessment relevance in a digital context, and
- Extending the skills and confidence of teachers in the appropriate and effective use of digital technology.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Argyll and Bute Council's Education Service is forward looking and ambitious, continuously focused on improving the quality of learning and teaching. Achievement, raising attainment and inclusion are paramount in the continued success of digital learning. The approach to developing a Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Argyll and Bute will build on:
- 1) The importance that digital technology is embedded in all aspects of modern life and core to learning and teaching;
 - 2) Ensuring that every child and young person has an effective and appropriate digital learning experience led by high quality Head Teachers, class teachers and support staff, and
 - 3) That young people in Argyll and Bute are able to develop the digital skills they will need to flourish in the 21st century.
- 6.2 A Digital learning and Teaching Strategy for Argyll and Bute will be published in Autumn 2016 and will be based on A Digital Learning Strategy for Scotland published in Spring 2016.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 7.1 | Policy | The model for a Digital learning and Teaching Strategy for Argyll and Bute will meet the recommendations of the Scottish Government. |
| 7.2 | Financial | The strategy will be on line with the budget related to Learning Technologies. |
| 7.3 | Legal | None. |
| 7.4 | HR | Recruitment and training to equip staff to deliver on Digital learning and Teaching Strategy for Argyll and Bute. |
| 7.5 | Equalities | The Digital learning and Teaching Strategy for Argyll and Bute will ensure the use of learning technologies is inclusive and relevant, accountable and engages with communities. |
| 7.6 | Risk | The availability of adequate devices, suitable bandwidth and capacity to support increased use of digital learning. |
| 7.7 | Customer Services | None |

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Consultation on the development of a Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland.

Appendix 2: Connected Vision 2013.