

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
JOINT INFORMATION COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,  
HERTFORD ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2026,  
AT 6.00 PM

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PRESENT: Councillor J Thomas (Chair)  
Councillors J Dumont, B Crystall, V Glover-  
Ward and C De Freitas

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Michele Aves	- Committee Support Officer
Matt Canterford	- Assistant Director (IT)
Clare Fletcher	- Assistant Director of Finance
Brian Moldon	- Director for Finance, Risk and Performance

349 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Councillor Rossati.

350 MINUTES - 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

It was moved by Councillor Dumont and seconded by Councillor Crystall that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** – that the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 8 September 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

351 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and reminded participants to use their microphones when speaking.

352 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

353 IT PARTNERSHIP DASHBOARD FOR APRIL TO JULY 2025

The Assistant Director, Chief Technology Officer, and Senior Information Risk Owner introduced a report that provided an update on the Information Technology Partnership Dashboard covering April to July 2025.

Members heard that since the Committee had last met in September, both partners had seen considerable improvements in function and system uptime, with performance targets expected to be met by year end.

Members were advised that a key measure of this improvement was a reduction in the number of calls made to the IT Service Desk, which in turn freed up officer time for project delivery and proactive work.

Members heard that election periods were always challenging, but that Stevenage was not participating in the flexible voting pilot in May, which would have been complex and posed connectivity issues for IT.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director, Chief Technology Officer, and Senior Information Risk Owner for the report and Members questions were answered.

**RESOLVED** – that IT Partnership Dashboard for April 2023 to December 2025 be noted.

354 IT STRATEGY

The Assistant Director, Chief Technology Officer, and Senior Information Risk Owner introduced a report outlining the ICT Strategy for 2026–2029, noting that the final version would be presented to both partners for

approval in the summer.

Members were informed about the strategy's three pillars:

- Active Cyber Resilience
- Data Intelligence and Ethical AI
- Future-Ready Technology and Culture

The Chair thanked officers for the report, and Members' questions were answered by the Assistant Director, Chief Technology Officer, Senior Information Risk Owner, and both partners' Chief Financial Officers.

Officers provided assurances on staff training and highlighted the success of the Cyber Police initiative, the lessons learned around communications, and the robustness and ongoing checks within the procurement process.

Members emphasised the importance of maintaining human oversight in the use of AI and were told that an AI Governance Board would be established for both partners. Assurance was also given that Members would receive early notice of any proposed workforce changes, with the strategy framing AI as a tool for efficiency rather than staff replacement.

Members were updated that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) had absorbed significant officer time, with all Hertfordshire IT Heads of Service required to deliver twelve workstreams by vesting day. They heard that risks had been identified, and that pragmatic solutions were needed, with greater clarity expected in June once the LGR configuration became known.

**RESOLVED** – that IT Strategy 2026 -2029 be noted.

355 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC  
Councillor Thomas proposed, and Councillor Glover-Ward seconded, a motion to exclude the press and public

during the discussion of Agenda Items 8 and 9, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- 7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

After being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** – that pursuant to Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded during consideration of the business referred to in Minute 30 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

- 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- 7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

356 IT PARTNERSHIP DASHBOARD FOR APRIL TO JULY 2025  
The Assistant Director, Chief Technology Officer, and Senior Information Risk Owner introduced the report.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director, Chief Technology Officer, and Senior Information Risk Owner for the report and Members questions were answered.

Full details are recorded in the restricted minutes.

**RESOLVED** – that IT Partnership Dashboard for April 2023 to July 2025 be noted.

357 CYBER SECURITY UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Chief Technology Officer, and Senior Information Risk Owner introduced the report.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director, Chief Technology Officer, and Senior Information Risk Owner for the report and Members questions were answered.

Full details are recorded in the restricted minutes.

**RESOLVED** – that the Cyber Security Update be noted.

358 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm

Chairman .....
Date .....