

Information Technology Strategy

Scope

The Information Technology Strategy covers all of the information technology which underpins the Authority's computerised information systems, business processes and information requirements and relates to all equipment, whether on or off Authority premises which is owned, operated or supported by the Authority.

Objectives.

1. To provide and sustain an information technology framework to enable the Authority to fulfil its vision and strategic aims.
2. To enable the Authority and its service delivery units and support services to operate effectively and efficiently by:
 - the adoption and implementation of appropriate information technology standards where such are available;
 - providing a reliable, secure and resilient information technology infrastructure.
3. To position the Authority for the appropriate deployment of new uses of information technology and provide effective and flexible information technology support for Authority activities.
4. To integrate the demands of CLG and other national guidelines for Fire Service and public authority Information Technology into effective local systems.

Strategy

- All Authority buildings will have a minimum level of internal networking infrastructure for both data and voice networking, the minimum level to be agreed by the Authority in line with its strategic objectives.
- All internal building networks will be provided with a resilient connection to central systems through the North Yorkshire Wide Area Network or ADSL as appropriate.
- Support will be developed for emerging mobile, wireless technologies, for example, converged mobile phones/hand held computers, where this is in support of key Authority strategies
- The rapid convergence of telephone and computer technologies in all areas, including networking, desktop and mobile systems will be exploited in support of the Authority's strategies.
- Server operating systems will be restricted to SQL Server consistent with Authority and Service business needs, in order both to reduce security risks and to control the costs of supporting and integrating different systems. Different systems will be considered but a strong case must be made for moving away from SQL Server.
- The Authority recognises that high levels of interoperability will be achieved most effectively and efficiently through the adoption of appropriate standards.

**North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Strategy**

- Desktop and notebook computers used by staff must conform with standards which allow them to provide appropriate access to all Authority information-technology-based, information services.