COUNTY COUNCIL: 21ST MAY 2024

Agenda Item No. 15a) – Motion from Councillor Alex Beckett –

Proposed by   Councillor Count   Seconded by   Councillor Sharp

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

     a)   Motion from Councillor Alex Beckett

Core Purpose: To assess and prepare for the future impact of new technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), genomics and automated vehicles, on local communities and the services, operations and obligations of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Council notes that:

- Rapid advancements in technology are reshaping our society, economy, and environment, offering significant opportunities and posing challenges.

- Technologies such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy, genomics, digital infrastructure, biomedical implants, and automated vehicles, have the potential to enhance the lives of our residents, create more effective and efficient public services, improve environmental sustainability, and stimulate economic growth.

- Automated vehicles, in particular, could represent a transformative shift in transportation, offering prospects for improved mobility in rural areas and requiring careful integration within urban settings to address potential congestion and safety concerns **in both rural and urban areas**.

- Genomics, personalised medicine and biomedical implants could transform the lives of patients but will require significant changes to the way we deliver social care.

- The rise of social media and increased connectivity has the potential to reduce isolation for some groups of society but brings additional challenges for our young people navigating a complex world. The ability to easily and quickly create realistic fake photos/videos is a particular concern in the coming years.

- These advancements also introduce risks including cybersecurity threats, ethical dilemmas, job displacement, and the digital divide.

- Proactive planning and strategic investment in technology can help mitigate these risks, leverage opportunities for innovation, and ensure equitable benefits for all residents of Cambridgeshire.

The Council is recommended to commit to:

- presenting long-term Technology Impact Assessment, as part of business planning, reports to each Policy and Service Committee to inform members awareness of the potential opportunities and risks new technologies (including

but not limited to autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence/Machine Learning, renewable energy generation/storage, Internet of Things) may present to our ways of working with and in our communities over the short, medium and long (20+year)-term. This should consider the financial costs and gains, environmental impacts, economic opportunities, social changes, and potential security risks.

- using the assessments to continually refresh the Council's Digital Strategies and the action plans that support their delivery, as well as the Council's business plan. This should be reported annually alongside the Business and Budget Plan to the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee.

- **asking the Chief Executive to write to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, as the overarching body responsible for skills in our area, suggesting they** ~~creating~~ **bring forward proposals to create** a technology forum to foster collaboration with local universities, technology companies, research institutions, and other local authorities in order to explore the challenges and opportunities technology can bring to **the wider geographic area of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough** ~~our area. A member technology champion would assist in supporting this Forum.~~