

Renewing Scotland's Full Potential in the Digital World

Updating the Digital Strategy for Scotland

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Digital
Scotland

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The nature of digital, and our understanding of the opportunities it provides, have evolved, and the coronavirus pandemic has only accelerated the pace of digital transformation.

The Scottish Government, in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, is working to update the Digital Strategy for Scotland to reflect this changing digital landscape.

We are aiming to produce a strategy update that:

- Is big, bold and transformative, and recognises that digital is now at the front and centre of how we live and work;
- Is a shared vision of where Scotland is going that resonates with everyone that reads it, and encourages them to want to be a part of it;
- Is a catalyst for bringing together the digital transformation ambitions throughout all sectors in Scotland;
- Reflects the strategic priorities for Scotland as a whole, rather than a list of actions that are appropriate to individual organisations.

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The strategy discussion document outlines six key themes that are crucial in building a Digital Scotland and the actions that we can take together to bring this vision into reality:

1. No One Left Behind

Geography, background or ability should not be barriers to getting online and benefiting from digital technology. To achieve this, we need networks which reach every corner of the country. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of access to the internet, for information, access to services and the social links that are so important to wellbeing. We need to ensure everyone has these skills and access.

2. Services Working for All

The coronavirus crisis has demonstrated the importance of public services that are secure and resilient, and which are able to adapt and scale in response to changing demands. People and businesses want services that are accessible and simple to use. They want them to be inclusive and designed around the needs of their users, rather than the organisational structures or traditions of the organisations that provide them.

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3. Transforming Government

The transformation of public services requires national and local governments and NHS bodies to become digital organisations. They will be built on digital business models that take advantage of the opportunities of digital technology.

4. A Digital and Data Economy

The pandemic has underlined the importance of digital capacity and capability across Scotland's economy. Scotland has shown commitment to embracing new digital technologies, however, we can do more to ensure the quality and resilience of the networks on which our businesses rely.

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5. A Vibrant Tech Sector

Scotland is home to a thriving tech ecosystem and growing this sector gives us an opportunity to create new jobs in industries with long term growth potential and a positive impact on climate change. It also helps us to further promote our ambitions for a wellbeing economy to balance the demands to sustain the economy, whilst safeguarding social and environmental wellbeing.

6. An Ethical Digital Nation

The use of data and digital technology raises important new ethical and moral questions about the kind of society we want to be. We need to ensure that digital services operate to high ethical standards to protect personal privacy, give people control of their personal information and ensure transparency – candidness and transparency play a crucial role in maintaining and building trust in digital.

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What have we learnt since early 2020

- Digital is at the heart of our response
- Our ability to continue to deliver Government is only possible through acceleration of digital means
- Collaboration with our partners is an important part of this response
 - Operational response providing the foundations average of 2,000 working from home accelerated to 12,000 within a week
 - Scotland's Tech Army
 - Connecting Scotland

What more can we do ?

- Invest in our future and truly reform and transform our public services
- Build on the emergency powers to ensure our key legal and Justice requirements can continue to function
- Assess the gains from our new approach as we respond to climate change

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Your Input

- Do you think there opportunities to realise the collaborative approach outlined within the strategy discussion document? Which of these opportunities do you think are the priority?
- Is the vision that we have set out in the supporting narrative in each of the six themes the right one?
- Is there anything you are doing in your area that we can learn from
- What would be your six themes to focus on in your response renew and recover



Renewing Scotland's Full Potential in the Digital World Strategy Update

Keep-up-to-date with upcoming events and developments with the strategy by;

- Following us on Twitter [@digitalscots](https://twitter.com/digitalscots)
- Keeping an eye on our blog <https://blogs.gov.scot/digital/>
- Visiting consult.gov.scot to contribute your views on the strategy discussion document;

