



FOI REF:	15183
RESPONSE SENT:	20/02/2025

Request and response (in blue)

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your council's preparedness and current initiatives relating to artificial intelligence (AI).

Specifically, I would like to understand the following:

AI Strategy

1. Does the council have an official AI strategy or roadmap?

- If yes, please provide a copy or summary.
- If no, are there plans to develop one?

No, but we are planning to develop one.

2. Has the council allocated a specific budget for AI initiatives in the last three financial years?

- If so, please provide details of the budget allocation and expenditure.

No

3. Has the council engaged with external consultants or organisations to develop or implement AI projects? If so, please provide details.

We worked with Future Fox for a trial for a specific use case summarising and reviewing consultations.

AI Projects and Use Cases

4. Is the council currently using or piloting any AI tools or solutions?

- If yes, what are the primary use cases (e.g., chatbots, fraud detection, process automation)?
- Please list any vendors or solutions used.

We are currently piloting the use of Microsoft Co-Pilot for Meeting Summaries and assistance within the 365 platform.

5. Has the council completed or planned any feasibility studies or pilot projects related to AI?

- If yes, please provide a summary of findings or expected outcomes.



Currently in pilot as above, previously piloted Future Fox (as per Q3)

Governance and Ethical Considerations

6. How does the council ensure ethical considerations in the use of AI, such as avoiding bias in algorithms or ensuring transparency?

- Are there governance frameworks in place to address these issues?

We are currently exploring this.

7. Has the council undertaken any risk assessments for the implementation of AI technologies?

- If yes, please provide details or copies of any assessments.

Not as yet but planned as part of strategy development.

8. How does the council comply with data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR) when implementing AI projects?

We have ensured our limited use cases are compliant, through creation of DPIAs and review by our DPO. This is a key consideration for our AI Strategy development.

Talent and Skills

9. What proportion of the council's staff has received AI-related training or upskilling in the past three years?

Very limited if any

10. Does the council employ data scientists, AI specialists, or other technical staff dedicated to AI initiatives?

- If yes, how many, and in what roles?

No

Infrastructure and Budget

11. What technological infrastructure is currently in place to support AI initiatives (e.g., data storage, computing resources, cloud platforms)?

Under review as part of AI Strategy development

12. Has the council faced challenges in implementing AI due to resource or infrastructure limitations?

- If yes, please provide details.



Not as yet, resource constraints are key consideration in AI Strategy development.

13. Is there a long-term budget allocation plan for AI adoption or expansion?

Not as yet, ongoing conversations

Public Engagement

14. Has the council conducted any public consultations or outreach efforts regarding the use of AI in council operations?

Not as yet, consultations will be considered going forward depending on AI use case.

15. Are there mechanisms for residents to understand or influence how AI is being used by the council?

Not specifically but we do have forums that may potentially be utilised for this purpose.

