

Division(s): N/A

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 13 January 2021

Cyber Security Report

Report by Director of IT, Digital and Transformation

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.**

Purpose of the Report

2. This report summarises key points regarding Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Cyber Security posture.

Cyber Security Update

3. OCC is Public Sector Network (PSN), Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus compliant. This demonstrates data security best practice is being followed and that security arrangements, policies, processes, infrastructure and applications have been verified.
4. In July 2020, a joint Cyber Security Officer for OCC and Cherwell District Council (CDC) was appointed, with the responsibility to ensure that the organisations remain protected and compliant in relation to IT, cyber security and threat management.
5. COVID-19 and the increase in homeworking have presented cyber security challenges, including a general increase in scam or phishing emails. Existing security solutions have been vital in blocking these threats. Approximately 500 scam emails per week are being blocked and 3000 phishing websites have been blocked in the last quarter of 2020.

6. There has been recent concern regarding the threat of Ransomware following warnings from the Cabinet Office and National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). The IT Service team frequently review NCSC guidance and ensures that adequate controls are in place to mitigate any threat should an incident occur.
7. Potential information security incidents are reviewed by the Information Management team, the IT Service including the Cyber Security Officer.
8. Work continues to identify improvements to existing security infrastructure, as well as the best ways to increase Staff and Member awareness regarding the ongoing threats.
9. There are several projects underway and others planned to ensure any potential weaknesses are addressed and that everything possible is being done to mitigate this ongoing corporate risk.

TIM SPIERS

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Background papers – NIL

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