

From: Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services
Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure

To: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee

Subject: Cyber Security

Non-Key/Key decision: Non-Key Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee - 8 November 2019

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions

Summary: This report updates **The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee** on the Council's current approach to cyber security and provides an update to the report presented to this Committee on 8 November 2019.

Recommendation(s):

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to **note** this report.

1. Introduction

1.1 Over the last year there has been a significant change in our working practice as a result of the pandemic. Alongside this we have continued to develop our technical operating model with the implementation of cloud infrastructure and adoption of the Office 365 tool set. To assist staff in the delivery of KCC services whilst coping with changes to their work practices, a number of amendments were made to KCC's systems and new devices and apps to support a more flexible way of working.

2. Security Summary

2.1 Cyber activity has continued to increase with organisations seeking to exploit any weakness. There have been several high-profile cases of successful cyber-attacks including the London Borough of Hackney, AMEY and Kent Commercial Services. All of these have had significant impacts on the ability of the organisations to deliver services, in some cases taking months to recover. Our reliance on our systems has never been greater than the present time to support the delivery of the Council's services.

The exempt report sets out the operating background in more detail and the Council's technical security approach.

KCC's early and prompt adoption of the collaborative tools provided through Microsoft's Office365 suite of applications and the migration of many of KCC's business application systems into the cloud-based Azure tenancy, substantially

reduced the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on KCC's ability to deliver its statutory duties and services by enabling staff to continue working during lockdown periods.

KCC's implementation of Microsoft's Security and Compliance suite of applications and services will build upon the Zero Trust and defence in-depth approaches to securing its ICT infrastructure and the information that is processed and stored therein.

Evidence from monitoring activity suggests that KCC cyber defences are performing well. The planned technology roadmap activity will incorporate further cloud-based security tools to strengthen resilience against known cyber threats. In order to ensure a secure infrastructure and mitigate current and emerging cyber threats, continued investment in developing security technology must be maintained.

The Strategic Technology Board continues to manage activities to address the recommendations made by the NCCG's review of KCC's cyber security and resilience.

3. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s):

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to **note** this report.

4. Contact Details

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