NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Audit

Committee date: 11/07/2023

Report title: Cyber Security Update

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

Report from: Head of customers, IT and digital

Wards: All wards

Purpose

This report provides audit committee with assurance that we have in place security measures to mitigate our risks around cyber-attacks.

Recommendation:

The local government association (LGA) recommends that members receive regular updates, and this report provides audit committee members with a quarterly cyber security update that includes an assurance dashboard, independent health check status, and email protection summary.

Policy framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.

- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.

- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.

- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.

- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report meets Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city corporate priority and being cyber secure is fundamental for the delivery of our corporate plans.

Report details

1. The COVID-19 crisis has been a catalyst for digital innovation within local government. However, this comes with an increased risk of cyber-attacks – a risk that may cost councils millions of pounds and result in the sensitive data of our most vulnerable residents being sold on the dark web.

2. In light of this, the LGA has delivered security testing to a representative 10 per cent sample of local authorities. **Norwich volunteered to take part in this scheme.** This has helped the LGA to better understand common vulnerabilities in councils, and to share the findings across the sector to help manage cyber risk.

3. Councillor Neil Prior is Deputy Chair of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board, and Productivity Lead Member has said that Councillors have a hugely important role to play in showing political leadership and making the case for investment in this area.

4. There has never been a more urgent need to understand and manage cyber risk. In doing so, we are more likely to protect key services and vulnerable people and respond and recover more quickly when an incident occurs.

5. Councillor Neil Prior suggested '10 questions a councillor could ask' as a great place to start.

6. A feedback session was provided to audit committee members on 26 September 2022 to answer these 10 questions to provide assurance. This identified a gap "Do members receive regular cyber security updates?"

7. Appendix 1 provides a cyber security update for audit committee members and answer any subsequent questions.

   Appendix 1:

   a. **A dashboard** that details the number of incidents that have been detected each quarter.

   b. Outcome of **annual independent IT heath check** for private sector network (PSN) compliance.

   c. **Email protection summary** provides numbers of spam blocked, impersonation attacks, malware detected, links clinked and malicious attachments.

Consultation

8. Not applicable for this report.

Implications

Financial and resources

9. There are no specific financial implications.

Legal

10. There are no specific legal implications for this update.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	Not applicable
Health, social and economic impact	Not applicable
Crime and disorder	Not applicable
Children and adults safeguarding	Not applicable
Environmental impact	Not applicable

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Failure to update members of cyber risks	Lack of awareness and understanding of issues	Provide regular reports and updates

Other options considered.

11. Not applicable to this report.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

- To provide audit committee with a quarterly update on cyber security as recommended by the LGA and answer any additional questions.

Appendices:

Appendix 1. Audit committee cyber update (Exempt Paragraph 3)

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