

Committee: IT Working Group
Date: 1 April 2009
Title: Government Connect (GC)
Author: Nicola Wittman, ICT Manager
01799 510413

Agenda Item

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Item for
Information

Summary

1. This report is to advise Members of the progress on Government Connect (GC) and the implications for this Council.

Recommendations

2. Members note the content of this report.

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Staff are being consulted throughout the implementation process
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	The funds required are available from a mix of both capital and revenue budgets.
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	Without the new connection electronic communication with the Department for Work and Pensions will cease on 31 May 2009.

CoCo Progress So Far

3. Since the last meeting the CoCo has been assessed and resubmitted twice. Following the last submission we took the decision to apply for an exemption until 31st May 2009 which has been granted. We were failing on one control which is a "MUST". A solution for this control has been identified but it was not felt appropriate to rush this change as it has the potential to severely disrupt email traffic both in and out of the organisation.

Work Completed to Date

4. A large amount of work has gone into the CoCo document itself; there has also been a significant amount of system and infrastructure changes made. To date the major changes that have taken place include:
 - a. Installing and configuring an Intrusion Prevention System (IPS).
 - b. Installing a patch management server.
 - c. Testing Blackberries as a replacement for the existing mobile devices.
 - d. Upgrading the Citrix Suite.
 - e. Upgrading the RSA server.
 - f. Moving a document management system to a compliant server.
 - g. Installing the firewall for the GCSX connection.
 - h. Installing Nessus Vulnerability Scanner.
 - i. Installing Snort Intrusions Prevention and detection.
 - j. Beginning the process of User checks.
 - k. Removing Administrator rights from all users.
 - l. Writing several new policies.
5. Most of the changes to our ICT systems are being done out of hours by staff who are unpaid for this time but who are doing it to minimise disruption to front facing service providers such as Benefits and Planning. Where we have third party support we sometimes have to do the upgrade during office hours as that is the extent to which we have a support contract.
6. To date we have made over 100 system changes. There have only been a couple of instances of unscheduled downtime primarily with the introduction of the new firewalls. Unfortunately human error led to a rule aimed at fixing internet access for internal users being applied to home workers (including councillors) which led to a period of downtime which regrettably included a weekend.

Work still to be done

7. By 31 May 2009 there are a number of pieces of work still to complete:
 - a. Laptop encryption software
 - b. Configuration of a new exchange server.
 - c. Install and configure a virus guard server.
 - d. Restrict access for USB memory sticks, Cd drives and cameras.
 - e. Change Members passwords to complex passwords.
 - f. All Staff to sign new policies
 - g. Train Staff in the meaning of "RESTRICTED"
 - h. Carry out risk assessments.
 - i. Send out guidance notes to home workers on the use of Wireless.
 - j. Agree and sign contracts with GCSX

8. It is envisaged that it will take three Officers, working full-time on the project, up until 31 May 2009 to complete the work outstanding.

Cost

9. There is no external funding available to assist with the costs of this project.
10. Most of the cost is one off set-up expenditure. So far the cost of the project has exceeded £120,000 with annual on-going cost in excess of £20,000. It is likely that we have at least another £50,000 of capital needing to be spent to enable compliance to be achieved. The capital funding is available from the transformation government budget. The consultancy costs have to be met from the revenue budget which will use the remaining 2008/9 consultancy budget. There is no revenue budget for the on-going cost and savings will therefore have to be identified from within the existing ICT budget.