Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

12th January 2022

Report of the Chief Digital Officer

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Neath Port Talbot Cyber Security Strategy

Purpose of the Report:

1. To provide elected Members with an overview of the Neath Port Talbot Council's Cyber Security Strategy and to seek approval to adopt the same.

Executive Summary:

2. The Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Cyber Security Strategy has been developed to outline Neath Port Talbot Council's approach to protecting our information systems, the data held within them, and the services they provide from unauthorised access, harm or misuse. A copy of the strategy is attached at Appendix 1.

Background

3. We live in a world characterised by interconnecting data, constantly evolving and empowering us to make better informed decisions. Information and data are vital to every part of the work of a Local Authority. As we deliver against the objectives in our Smart & Connected Digital Strategy, we are transforming the way we work and how our residents, business and wider stakeholders access information and services. As a result, we need increasingly robust security measures to protect against cyber threats.

4. Across the world, cyber-attacks are growing more frequent and sophisticated. Public sector organisations are not immune to the rise in cyber incidents and when they succeed, the damage can be life-altering, with severe personal, economic and social consequences.

5. We must ensure that the services we provide are secure and our residents, businesses and wider stakeholders can safely interact with us. This requires a balance of embracing digital opportunities, including making information more widely available and accessible, whilst ensuring that the right levels of protection are in place.

6. In order to obtain strong cyber security, the Council must ensure it promotes a comprehensive risk-based approach to cyber security, which is integrated across personnel, technical security, information assurance and physical security which strategically encompasses Information Security, Assurance, Resilience and Governance.

7. The purpose of this strategy is to give assurance to residents, businesses and other stakeholders of the Council's commitment to delivering robust information security measures to protect resident and stakeholder data from misuse and cyber threats, and to safeguard their privacy through increasingly secure and modern information governance and data sharing arrangements - both internally and with partners. The strategy supports delivery

of the wider Digital Strategy by providing a framework for the Council to securely harness the benefits of digital services for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Financial Impacts:

8.   There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

9.   There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

10. There are no valley communities impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts:

11. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts:

12. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management Impacts:

13. There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation:

14. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

15. It is recommended that members approve the Neath Port Talbot Council Cyber Security Strategy as set out in Appendix 1.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure the Council has a place a strategy for protecting information systems, the data held within them and the services they provide from unauthorised access, harm or misuse.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is for implementation after the 3 day call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - NPT Cyber Security Strategy

List of background papers: None

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