

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 5
FEBRUARY 2025



Title of Report	ANNUAL IT HEALTH CHECK	
Presented by	Sam Outama IT MANAGER	
Background Papers	NA	Public Report: No Appendix 1 is exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
Financial Implications	Fines could be imposed upon the Council if data breaches were to occur, the risk of which would be increased if the IT Health Check recommendations were not followed.	
	The cost of the re-test once the recommendations are remedied will be £2,090.00	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: yes	
Legal Implications	The Council could be open to legal challenges if data breaches were to occur, the risk of which would be increased if the IT Health Check recommendations were not followed.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	N/A	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: yes	
Purpose of Report	To provide assurance to the Audit and Governance Committee on the security of Council's network, and to advise of the steps to be taken to address the recommendations in the Health Check report.	
Recommendations	That the Committee: 1) Notes the contents of the annual IT Health Check report and the actions both undertaken and in progress to comply with the IT Health Check recommendations, as set out in Appendix 1.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 IT security health checks are recommended as best practice, in line with Public Services Network (PSN) and National Cyber Security (NCSC) requirements. The Council's yearly IT security health check was carried out in November 2024. The results of the health check are attached in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 There were 31 low, 15 medium and 5 high risks, identified as part of the IT health check. The Council are focusing on the 15 mediums and the 5 highs as part of our remediation plan as these are the ones which need to be addressed as a priority.
- 1.3 Since the IT health check was carried out, the Council have remediated two high risks and 5 medium risks. The remaining high and medium risks will be remediated by the end of February 2025, as this is when the Council needs to submit its remediation plan to the Cabinet Office for the renewal of our PSN (Public Sector Network) certification, however the Council is reliant on suppliers and their resources. Some remediations may run for slightly longer whilst we await patches or software upgrades from suppliers. As long as we know which risks these are and have a plan to remediate, the cabinet office, have been happy with this approach. So far, we have not incurred any additional costs for remediations and don't foresee any costs with the remaining remediations.
- 1.4 A retest of the remediations will be carried out to make sure the high and medium risks have been remediated correctly. The cost of the retest is £2,090 and the retest will be carried out before the end February, prior to submission to the cabinet office. A retest which is awaiting supplier fixes and software upgrades will be carried out, once these patches and upgrades have been applied.

2.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The cost of the retest is £2,090 and is funded from the IT revenue budget.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A Well-Run Council
Policy Considerations:	N/A
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	N/A
Customer Impact:	Customer services and the business would be severely impacted if there was no access to the network or systems.
Economic and Social Impact:	N/A
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon	N/A
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	N/A

Risks:	There are no specific risks associated with this report, however, if the areas identified within the IT Health Check are not remediated the Council could be at a higher risk of a cyber-attack.
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