

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Audit & Risk Committee
DATE	27 June 2017
REPORT TITLE	Website Breach Action Plan Update
REPORT NUMBER	CG/17/033
HEAD OF SERVICE	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Jamie Kirkwood

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-**

- 1.1 This report is to update Elected Members on the action plan that was produced in response to the website homepage breach which occurred on the 28th January 2017.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Elected Members note the contents of the report and attached action plan update.

### **3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES / OTHER HEADINGS AS APPROPRIATE**

#### **The Incident**

- 3.1 On the evening of Saturday the 28th January, the homepage of the Council's website was replaced with an external image. Only the homepage was defaced, all other information on the website was still available and unaffected. After initial investigation it is believed that the incident occurred due to a vulnerability found on the file upload facility on the 'What's On' page of the externally hosted internet website.

#### **Actions**

- 3.2 Actions that arose, and were reported to committee in response to this incident, are recorded within the Action Plan at Appendix 1.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this update report.

### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this update report.

## **6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

- 6.1 The main risks considered were reputation and trust in our core Council technology services, incorporating our protection of personal data.
- 6.2 Impact of a breach of the website is high as this forms part of the council's core critical business infrastructure. The likelihood of any of the council's public services, including the website, being attacked is a certainty. To mitigate this, various security measures are already in place with the aim to detect and block suspicious activity. Within our Being Digital strategy, the implementation of our replacement firewall solution is complete. This firewall enhances our network perimeter security to the latest technology. However, Cyber-criminals are continually devising new methods to avoid detection, and there is no guarantee that future breaches may not occur.
- 6.3 There is an added risk that many systems, which are not subject to the same vigorous security testing and change controls, have been procured and managed outside the central IT service. This is currently the subject of a review.

## **7. IMPACT SECTION**

### **Economy**

- 7.1 There is no direct impact on the economy as a result of this update report.

### **People**

- 7.2 During the incident our customers experienced degradation to the Council's website. Customers were also unaware if their information was safe and protected as a result of the breach.

### **Place**

- 7.3 There is no direct impact on the environment as a result of this update report.

### **Technology**

- 7.4 The incident highlighted the requirement for addressing all aspects of security when implementing Digital solutions. Systems hosted within the Council's network are protected through our Firewalls, Intrusion Protection, Anti-virus solutions, access control measures, both physical and electronic and environmental measures such as power protection, temperature and moisture monitoring and alerts. When procuring cloud based services, which are hosted external to the Council's perimeter network, systems are security assessed as part of the procurement process, and penetration tested to assure ourselves of the integrity of the Council's data prior to going live. Security system risk assessments are re-assessed annually.

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Website Breach Committee Report CG/17/033

**9. APPENDICES (if applicable)**

Appendix 1: Updated actions

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