Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Overview and Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	26 July 2017
OFFICER	Julian Parsons, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Peter McDonald
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	**ICT Disaster Recovery Plan**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This paper is to provide an initial update into the delivery of the ICT Disaster Recovery Plan which was approved at SMB on the 18 October 2016.
	Since approval for funding we have:-
	• Sought out partners to deliver the project:
	o Updata (Capita) to provide the connectivity;
	o Microsoft Azure for secure cloud space;
	o Systems Up to assist internal staff with the preparation, move and testing of the new solution.
	• Created a design brief document and timeline.
	• Tested the solution which was proposed using low capacity servers and a connection across the internet to the Microsoft Azure Cloud.
	We are currently six months behind schedule, due to issues with Updata delivering the route to Azure. This is because Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) decided not to allow us to share their route to the cloud (Express Route). We have redesigned the network topology to allow our own Express Route. Updata are currently configuring our firewalls routers and network to provide the necessary routing.
ACTION	Information.
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the report be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	As identified in the original report, there remains a significant risk whilst our production servers and disaster recovery servers remain co-located. This was again recognised in an audit of our resilience carried out by BCC Q1 2017.
	The issue with delivery of a suitable connection to Azure has not only created a significant delay, but also

	could have financial consequences.
	It should be noted that our systems were not affected by the global cyber-attack experienced in May 2017. This was in part due to the significant work already undertaken to improve our resilience to attacks of this nature.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	Whilst the original request in the Medium Term Financial Plan remains sufficient, the redesigned route to Azure will attract an additional cost, we have attempted to minimise this and expect to deliver close to the allocated budget.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Fire and Rescue Services are categorised as category 1 responders and therefore are expected to be highly robust and able to maintain operations at all times. Therefore the business continuity and disaster recovery plan for Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) must be robust enough to deal with and maintain its statutory obligations through all reasonably foreseeable events.
	Many aspects of our ICT systems manages information that would be subject to the Data Protection Act 1998. Therefore the security of our systems is paramount and our management of data is intrinsically linked to our ICT business continuity arrangements.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	In 2015 BFRS and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) explored opportunities to potentially collaborate in providing mutual resilience in relation to disaster recovery servers. This would effectively mean that each service would host the others' back-up server arrays. Though technically very feasible and the geographical remoteness of the two services HQs was attractive, the costs of replicating the server arrays in each server room was cost prohibitive.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	There are no health and safety implications perceived at this time. There is constant review of this and any issues that may arise in the future will be referred.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	There are no equality or diversity matters arising from this report.
USE OF RESOURCES	**Contribution to the achievement of strategic objectives;** The ICT Strategy 2014-19 is designed to modernise our ICT infrastructure to take in the latest technology and thinking. It is key to supporting the ICT strategic objective to move applications to the cloud. **Communication with stakeholders;** Part of the plan for increasing the resilience of our ICT systems and recovery from any future cyber-attacks is

	through education of our staff to minimise the data stored on our systems, and also use email and the internet more safely by understanding and recognising cyber threats.
	The system of internal control;
	Agreed projects and initiatives will be captured in the ICT 2014-2019 project portfolio. Progress will be monitored at a departmental level and reported corporately through the development of the programme performance management system within Viper.
	The medium term financial strategy;
	The projects required to improve our ICT business continuity and disaster planning will be financially supported through either existing budgets or where necessary through in-year virements from underspends or contingency. This will be done in consultation with Finance.
	There may be the need for some modest revenue growth for the ICT department budgets.
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	**Background**
	As part of the ICT Strategy 2014-2019 it was identified that current government policy is to encourage public sector organisations to explore the benefits of cloud hosting and reduce the public spend on internal ICT infrastructure.
APPENDICES	Appendix A: DR Plan V3
	Appendix B: Disaster Recovery Review **(Exempt from Publication)**
	Appendix C: DR Gantt V3
TIME REQUIRED	10 minutes.
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