



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND RESOURCES**

to
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 DECEMBER 2023**

SCRUTINY WORKPLAN ITEM – CYBER SECURITY UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update and to seek agreement to delete this item from its scrutiny workplan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Cyber Security be deleted from the scrutiny workplan.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This matter was originally referred from the Performance, Governance and Audit Committee (PGA) in September last year with a request that the audit and technical reports available at that time be reviewed. This Committee subsequently agreed to add the item to its scrutiny workplan and at its March 2023 meeting further agreed to accept by way of reassurance the update on the various actions undertaken and to further review the item in light of the pending Internal Audit report.
- 3.2 The Internal Audit report was considered by PGA on 16 November 2023.
<https://democracy.maldon.gov.uk/documents/s33332/9c%20-%20MDC%20-%202022-23%20-%20Cyber%20Security%20-%20Internal%20Audit%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf>
- 3.3 The audit rated the Council as having substantial assurance on cyber security, with robust measures in place. There were only two recommendations which were to complete a Disaster Recovery test and to improve monitoring of regular staff training on this subject. An action was to better monitor that both Staff and Members had undertaken cyber training regularly. Officers advised that both these actions have been implemented. The PGA received the Auditor's presentation on this and noted that it amounted to a positive opinion. Review of Corporate Risk continues to be reported to PGA on a quarterly basis.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Given the progress made and the substantial level of assurance provided, and the fact that Corporate Risk was reviewed by PGA, there would appear to be little further for this Committee to review on this subject in terms of the original reference to it. It is therefore recommended that this item is deleted from the scrutiny workplan.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027

5.1 Provide good quality services.

5.1.1 Thorough scrutiny processes support improved performance and efficiency which in turn will contribute to the quality of services provided, and functions undertaken by the Council.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None directly, but individual scrutiny reviews will enable the impact on customers to be assessed.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Equalities are considered as part of the reporting on review work undertaken by Officers.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Scrutiny reviews enable potential Corporate Risks to the organisation and their mitigation to be identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Scrutiny reviews offer the potential for an assessment of financial impact to the organisation.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Scrutiny reviews offer the potential for an assessment of any resource impact to the organisation.

Background Papers:

None

Enquiries to:

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