Annex 7: Enterprise Technology, Platform Development and Systems - Successes and Achievements

Hyper-converged Infrastructure

The step change in the technologies used to provide the core server and storage infrastructure was completed. This was an integral element of the CIA (Core Infrastructure Architecture) strategy which sets out the vision and plan to increase the resilience and availability of the Council's core systems, with less reliance on DR as a fall-back scenario, and enabling technological consolidation and cost savings.

Cyber resilience and preparedness

Our strategic approach to cyber threats has changed significantly over the last few years. We now adopt a posture of detect, mitigate and where needed plan for and implement recovery. The following include the cyber enhancements put in place:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) monitoring
A whole network level of Artificial Intelligence based monitoring and threat response technology.

Security Operations Centre (SOC)
Working with an industry leading partner we have added a SOC capability to our cyber defences. The SOC is resourced 24 x 7 x 365 and continuously monitors our network. Action will be taken to stop the threat if something irregular is detected by this service and advanced monitoring tools already used.

Backup and recovery solution
Work has been undertaken to enhance the cyber resilience of the Council's data back-up processes. Technology has been implemented which undertakes a diagnostic of the data before it is committed to a back-up. The intention is to detect the presence of cyber compromises such as ransomware and prevent the overwriting of clean data. The resulting benefit of this work is that there can be a high level of confident in the successful recovery of data from back-ups.

Testing regime
Regular, external penetration tests of our network conducted by independent 3rd party specialists who help highlight weaknesses in our infrastructure.

Accreditations
IT & Digital has also worked to gain recognised security accreditations such as Cyber Essentials Plus, ISO27001 and whilst it is still active the Public Services Network code of connection. The Service also has CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) accredited members of staff which is an industry

leading qualification that is an equivalent to a master's degree and ratified by agencies such as the Ministry of Defence and elements of the security services.

Application implementations

The systems teams have worked collaboratively with business areas and suppliers to implement some additional information system platforms. This includes EYES (Early Years and Education System) which is one of the Liquid Logic modules and the introduction of Wisdom a document management and life cycle solution into CFLL.