



Report to: Audit & Governance Committee Meeting 27 September 2023

Director Lead: Sanjiv Kohli, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Resources (S151 Officer)

Lead Officer: Dave Richardson, Business Manager – ICT & Digital Services Ext 5405

Report Summary	
Report Title	LGA Newark and Sherwood District Council Cyber 360 Report
Purpose of Report	To present the results of LGA Newark and Sherwood District Council Cyber 360 Report
Recommendations	Members review, comment upon and note the LGA Newark and Sherwood District Council Cyber 360 Report
Reasons for Recommendation	To provide Members with details and assurance from the LGA Newark and Sherwood District Council Cyber 360 Report

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Association piloted Cyber 360 (C360s) peer reviews with a number of Local Authorities to ensure Cyber and information Security governance and culture is being understood and adequately resourced. The Cyber 360 Report and Cyber 360 Action Plan are not in the public area of the open report for security reasons and are held in the exempt version as Appendix A and Appendix B.
- 1.2 At the previous Audit & Governance Committee the ICT & Digital Services Business Manager advised that he participated in a Cyber360 peer review of another Council in 2022 and recommended to Senior Leadership Team that Newark & Sherwood District Council take part in our own C360 review, to provide assurance and ensure that we are addressing any areas of cyber risk.
- 1.3 The Cyber 360 (C360) team spent two days with Newark and Sherwood council on the 6th and 9th February 2023. Newark and Sherwood were the 15th council to undertake a C360 and we thank them for their ongoing feedback as we continually improve our approach. What follows are the observations and opinions of the C360 team. These are correct at the time of writing, although we appreciate that the council may have progressed its IT programme since.

- 1.4 Newark and Sherwood Council's political and executive leadership understands that cyber threats are growing and has ambitions to do more to manage these risks. In recent years the council has invested significantly in its cyber-security capacity and capabilities, and there is a sense of confidence among both management and political leaders that the council's cyber-security posture and awareness of risks are improving.
- 1.5 Newark and Sherwood Council has demonstrated considerable efforts to align its cyber-security controls and processes with good practice. This includes gaining cyber essentials certification and PSN compliance. The council has also recently published a cyber-security strategy, which has been helpful in defining a cohesive cyber-security programme that is owned corporately.
- 1.6 The governance arrangements for cyber-security are clear and well-established. The council has a Corporate Information Governance group which meets regularly to discuss cyber-security risks. This has helped to ensure high-level oversight of the council's cyber-security programme, including the various projects underlying the cyber-security strategy. The group reports regularly to member committees, which enables Members to provide oversight and challenge.
- 1.7 Senior managers have good awareness of cyber-security risks and see cyber-security as a business enabler. The council is taking steps to ensure that business managers are taking more responsibility for managing the cyber risks associated with their services.
- 1.8 The council is particularly forward thinking in respect to business continuity plans across all service areas.
- 1.9 Overall, Newark and Sherwood District Council has made significant progress in improving its cyber-security posture. The council should now ensure it continues to build on this progress, so that the council can mitigate risks and adapt to emerging threats.
- 1.10 A Cyber360 action plan has been commissioned off the back of the report and regularly updated by the Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG). Therefore, the updates to this committee will be provided by exception or at least on an annual basis.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 That the CIGG continue to progress the review of the Cyber360 action plan and update elected Members by exception and at a minimum on an annual basis.

3.0 Implications

None.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local

Government Act 1972. Any documents that contain confidential information or personal information about individuals should not be included in this list.