

Committee(s)	Dated:
IT Sub Committee – For Information	30 September 2016
Subject: IT Division – Update on the development of a new IT Strategy	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain	For Information
Report author: IT Director, IT Division	

Summary

The thinking around the next iteration of the IT strategy has started and a discussion document has been created to describe the core themes at a high level. The key elements of this are:

- Buy systems and services rather than build them in-house.
- Endeavour to use fewer systems more effectively to extract the most value from the investments made.
- As the external threat increases, ensure that systems and services are as secure and compliant as possible.
- Work to drive out complexity and look to commoditise the services we require wherever possible to get the best value and highest quality.

The next steps for this work include sharing the thinking more widely with all stakeholders and we will return with updates on progress at future IT Sub Committees.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The IT Division has been working on thinking for the future state of IT for the Corporation and City Police over the summer. This report describes the key themes that have come out of this work.

Core Themes

2. Building in-house IT systems is becoming increasingly expensive compared to buying services that meet the requirements we have. This move to software-as-a-service (SaaS) and consumption services is an industry trend and exploiting the approach will help the Corporation and City Police achieve a lower cost model for IT in the medium and longer term.
3. Many of the systems and services we purchase have far more functionality within them than we currently use. There is also evidence that we have purchased systems that have not been fully deployed. Focussing on exploiting the full functionality of the systems and services we have will lower complexity and enable us to extract the maximum value from the investments we have made.
4. The threat from cyber attacks on the Corporation and City Police is higher than similar organisations due to our profile. Acknowledging this issue, we need to focus on ensuring that an appropriate level of resource is invested both now and increasingly in the future on our defences. We will also be seeking to ensure that we meet the required standards for information handling that are required for us to process the range and sensitivity of information we hold.
5. The transformation programmes we have in place will enable us to commoditise core elements of the IT provision. By doing this we will be able to set a clearer expectation of the required quality and level of service we require with the suppliers that support us in the future. The skills within the IT Division will need to change to manage this new paradigm but the future model should deliver greater value and a more predictable service to all stakeholders.

Next Steps

6. The next step will be to share the core themes more widely with chief officers and users so that the impact is understood. As well as taking our thinking to specific governance forums, we will create additional opportunities for discussion that will enable the full strategy to underpin the wider business planning of the organisation.
7. The final version of the discussion paper and the full draft strategy will be presented to Members at future IT Sub Committees.

Conclusion

8. The IT Division is thinking about the core elements that will inform the full IT strategy we aim to put in place by the end of this financial year. The four key principles are; buy-not-build, use fewer systems more effectively, ensure security and compliance is a priority, and drive out complexity and move to commodity services.

9. The Division will continue this work and grow the strategy by engaging with the organisation and ensuring the core concepts are understood and underpin the wider organisational business plans.

Appendices

- None

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