

South Ayrshire Council

Report by Head of Finance and ICT  
to Service and Performance Panel  
of 16 November 2021

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**Subject: Cyber Security Maturity Assessment - Progress Report**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with information on [REDACTED] the Security Maturity Assessment carried out by an external consultant and as reported in the 2021/36 Cyber Security Internal Audit Report.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Panel considers [REDACTED] the Security Maturity assessment report, as provided in the attached Addendum (confidential) to this report.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 By the end of 2021, it is expected that ransomware attacks will occur every 11 seconds according to Cyber Security Ventures. The attack on the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in December 2020, the Glasgow based care company Aspire in April 2021 and various other high-profile attacks that have recently been reported worldwide demonstrate how high risk these events are and how devastating it can be to a business.
- 3.2 Ensuring that there are robust controls in place can save the Council time, money, and most importantly, data, if for example a ransomware attack occurs.
- 3.3 The 2021/36 Cyber Security Internal Audit Report reflected the outcomes of a Security Maturity Assessment carried out by an external consultancy called Quorum Cyber Professional Security Services who provide a wide range of advisory, assessment and compliance services to help customers reduce their exposure to cyber risk and increase their resilience to attacks.

3.4 [REDACTED]

3.5 This report provides high level information regarding the Maturity Assessment results. The specific detail on each of these is excluded from this report to ensure the confidential nature of the findings of the external assessment and prevent targeted attacks against the identified security vulnerabilities.

3.6 The Security Maturity report assessed South Ayrshire Council's overall level of maturity against sixteen (16) industry-standard security controls.

3.7 The areas assessed included controls such as: Asset Management; Disaster Recovery; Identity and Access Management; Intrusion Detection and Prevention; Network Security; Security Awareness and Training; and Web and Email Security.

3.8

[REDACTED]

3.9

[REDACTED]

#### 4. **Proposals**

4.1 It is proposed that the Panel considers the Addendum (confidential) to this report

[REDACTED].

#### 5. **Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

#### 6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 Not applicable.

#### 7. **Human Resources Implications**

7.1 There are no immediate Human Resource implications arising as a result of this report.

#### 8. **Risk**

##### 8.1 ***Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

##### 8.2 ***Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 There are no risks associated with rejecting the recommendations.

## **9. Equalities**

- 9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery) both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

## **10. Sustainable Development Implications**

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

## **11. Options Appraisal**

- 11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

## **12. Link to Council Plan**

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Commitment 1 of the Council Plan: Fair and Effective Leadership/ Leadership that promotes fairness

## **13. Results of Consultation**

- 13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Brian McGinley, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

**Background Papers**     [2021/36 Cyber Security Internal Audit Report, July 2021](#)

**Person to Contact**     **Tim Baulk, Head of Finance and ICT**  
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR  
Phone 01292 612620  
E-mail [tim.baulk@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.baulk@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**Stewart McCall, Service Lead – ICT Enterprise Architecture**  
8 Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1EN  
Phone 01292 612733  
E-mail [stewart.mccall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.mccall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

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