Item 13
For Noting

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Glasgow Kelvin College

Audit and Risk Committee – Meeting of 8 September 2020

Public Sector Action Plan and Cyber Resilience Update

Report by Director of Digital Services

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update members on the Scottish Government's Public Sector Action Plan (PSAP – the vehicle to improve cyber resilience standards across the Public Sector), the Cyber Resilience Framework and the Cyber Essential Plus accreditation.

2. Public Sector Action Plan – Update

Scotland's cyber resilience strategy comes to an end later this year, the purpose of it was to improve cyber resilience standards across the Public Sector.

The Scottish Government will publish an 'End of Strategy' report towards the end of Autumn which will highlight key achievements as well as areas where improvements are further required.

It is the government's intention to publish an interim strategy that will last 18-24 months and is believed to include consideration of the unprecedented adoption of digital and technologies and communications due to Covid-19. A longer-term strategy will be published towards the end of the 18-24 months.

The Audit and Risk committee will be informed as soon as possible of any changes, risks and opportunities that the interim strategy brings to the College.

3. Cyber Resilience Framework

<u>Cyber Resilience Framework</u>

Members will be aware of the Cyber Resilience Framework (CRF) which the Scottish Government pre-launched early 2020 as the next steps of the PSAP. Essentially the CRF is a self-assessment of the College's cyber resilience maturity using commonly available frameworks.

With reference to figure 1, it is expected that the College will sit above the 'initial baseline' within the 'target' area. There will be strengths and weaknesses which will be highlighted after the self-assessment exercise.

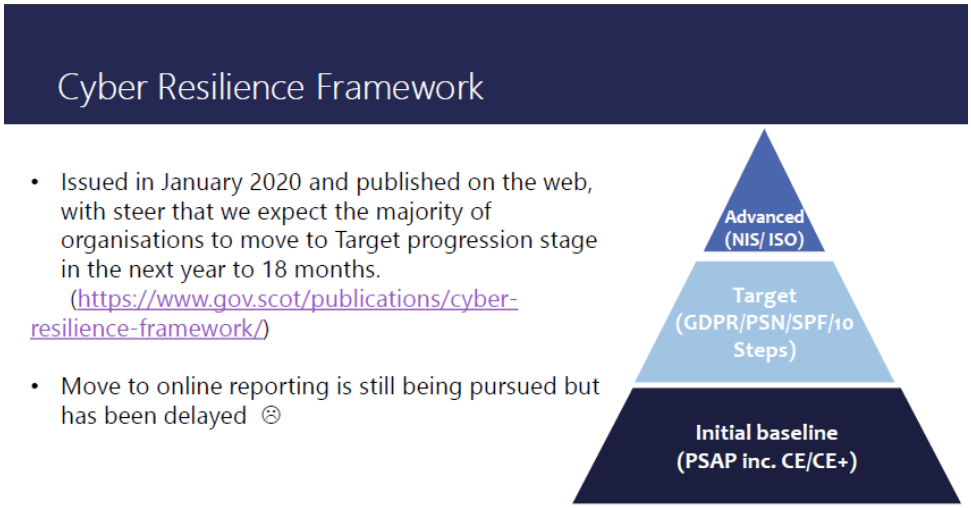

Figure 1 – slide from recent Scottish Government presentation.

It was the Scottish Government's intention to launch the online CRF tool by June 2020. Due to the acute impact of Covid-19 on available resources within the government (and presumably public sector organisations, this has been pushed back and is unlikely to be launched this calendar year. Regardless, the College continues to assign resource to progress the work required within the College in anticipation of the launch. A fuller update surrounding the results of the self-assessment will be provided to the committee towards the end of the calendar year.

4. Cyber Essentials Plus (CE+) accreditation

The College moved the annual assessment of CE+ back from August to October due to the significant stress the ICT team was placed under from the Covid-19 response. This meant that there is a short period of up to three months that the College will not be accredited, although the processes such as account creation, patching, firewall management, etc, were still in place.

This was a risk-based decision that the College was required to take after discussions at the Cyber Resilience Working Group. The team will focus on the accreditation after staff and students are embedded into the remote way of teaching over September.

5. Resources Implications

There are no immediate resource implications assigned to this report.

6. Equalities

No adverse impacts on individuals with protected characteristics have been identified as a consequence of this report.

7. Risk and Assurance

The Committee is mitigating the risk of failing to meet the highest standards of corporate governance which has been set by the Scottish Government.

8. Data Protection

The Cyber Resilience Framework will enable the College to focus in on areas that may be vulnerable and apply resources to close any gaps. This will assist in protecting the College as far as possible against data loss and, subsequently, potential fines. However, as aforementioned, there is no additional funding being made available and resources within the College are already significantly stretched.

9. Recommendations

Members of the Audit and Risk Committee are recommended to:

i) note the contents of this report, its appendix/links; and
ii) require the Director of Digital Services to submit a report in relation to this matter to the Audit and Risk Committee in due course.

10. Further Information

Members can obtain further information on the contents of this report from Andy Laszlo, Director of Digital Services – alaszlo@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk.

Glasgow Kelvin College
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September 2020