

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 18 June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

**TITLE:** 2009/2010 Code of Connection  
Compliance Programme

**WARDS:** Borough Wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the requirements placed on the Authority by Government through a project called 'Government Connect', and its implications as to how the Council does its business.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That:**

- (1) the requirements be noted;**
- (2) a series of workshops be held to inform Members of the detailed implications of the code; and**
- (3) that any additional costs to ensure compliance be met from the existing ICT Capital Programme.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 Government Connect is a national ICT infrastructure for all Local Government bodies that the Council is required to connect into before 30 June 2009. It is a secure private network which enables secure interactions between connected Local Authorities and organisations.

3.2 It has introduced a set of guidelines and processes that define how we will use share, access and store any and all data within the Council, particularly data that is shared with Government bodies. This is not just an ICT project this is the Government stipulating how the Authority as a whole uses and deals with any form of data – be it new, historic or electronic.

### 3.3 How will we develop this Programme?

- The Council needs to identify a corporate Security Compliance Officer, an Information Standards Manager and the support for these people.
- The technology platform has been developed in order to ensure compliance and is in place, however it will be the softer aspects of compliance that will impact upon individuals within the Authority, both in the short term and over the next few years as we have to adapt our expectation of what/how we use technology within the business environment.
- This is Authority wide change programme not just a technology solution; as the requirements become increasingly complex leading to the ISO27001 security standard.
- In order to comply with this standard both the Operational Director – ICT and Business Manager – ICT, will become the qualified security professionals for the Authority through the international BSI audit route.

### 3.4 How will it affect Members/Employees?

- Within the initial 94 Standards the Council is required to meet, many revolve around the use of corporate networks and personal computing devices, mobile phones, PDAs and the media used to both store and transmit data. Some of the requirements will change the way in which such equipment is currently accessed and used.
- In order to manage this process effectively, it is suggested that a series of workshops be held for Members, aimed at fully explaining the implications of the Code and how it will impact on the use of ICT equipment in the future.
- Further and more detailed information can be accessed from the Government Connect website at [www.govconnect.gov.uk](http://www.govconnect.gov.uk)

## 4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There is a high cost to ensuring compliance with the Code but this is to be initially contained by varying the current ICT Capital Programme. This will have an impact on existing programmes and will involve some reprofiling of priorities.

4.2 The total cost is in the order of £650,000, however, a large proportion of that would have had to be incurred as part of the ongoing upgrade and renewal of the Council's systems. However, the Code has required a reprioritisation of that work.

## 5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**Children and Young People in Halton**  
**Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**  
**A Healthy Halton**  
**A Safer Halton**  
**Halton's Urban Renewal**

- 6.1 Inability to transfer data securely and efficiently between Government and the Council's partners will have an operational impact on the delivery of the Council's priorities.
- 6.2 The Council will be unable to make official returns back to Government and this will impact the effective ability to measure performance.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The consequence of non compliance with the internal and external community is considerable with non compliance impacting on the Authority as a whole.
- 7.2 The Authority will initially lose the ability to transact electronically with the Department for Work and Pensions for all Benefit related correspondence and data returns. Subsequently, this will impact upon the Authority's ability to then transact electronic information within Children's and Adult Services with Government and other partners by 2010.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 None.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.