

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET MEMBER

**PUBLIC SERVICES NETWORK (PSN) CODE OF CONNECTION (CoCo)
COMPLIANCE**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the outcome of the Public Services Network (PSN) Code of Connection renewal exercise for 2014.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Public Services Network (PSN) is a government programme to unify the provision of network infrastructure across the public sector into an interconnected "network of networks" to increase efficiency and reduce overall public expenditure.
- 2.2 PSN substantially reduces the cost of communication services across government and enabling new secure joined up and shared public services for the benefit of organisations and citizens.
- 2.3 Each year North Lincolnshire Council submits a code of connection (CoCo) application to maintain its PSN connectivity. This annual requirement commenced in 2009 at the inception of the national Government Connect infrastructure initiative. During 2011 this became known as "PSN".
- 2.4 The recertification process requires each authority to respond to a comprehensive set of strict controls, demonstrating how they meet each one or plan to do so. As in previous years, gaining compliance can require a series of resubmissions due to additional evidence being requested by the Information Assurance Assessor (IAA).
- 2.5 An essential element of the compliance process is a mandatory external IT health check covering our IT Infrastructure, security facilities and internal processes/configurations.
- 2.6 During 2014 our assessment focussed thoroughly on the following areas:
- External penetration testing (from the internet to the NLC network)
 - Internal testing (testing of all our internal servers)
 - Standard hardware build (servers and desktops)
 - Wifi security (security)
 - Remote access solutions (security)

- 2.7 Following the completion of the IT health check, a summary report was produced outlining and recommending corrective action required to conform to the latest PSN CoCo. This included a substantial volume of work;
- Upgrading our network login directory
 - Database upgrades to four major applications
 - Implementation of secure access to remote email.
 - Removal of Webmail
 - Removal of Windows XP operating system.
- 2.8 Over the summer the necessary upgrades, changes and the implementation of replacement facilities took place. The completion of the work enabled our 2014 CoCo application to be submitted early October to the Information Assurance Assessor at the Cabinet Office.
- 2.9 On the 25 November 2014 we received official confirmation that our recertification submission had been successful. Our compliance certificate (Appendix 1) is valid until November 2015.
- 2.10 As in previous years, IT Services will continue to monitor and respond to any new requirements from PSN and actively engage in discussions regarding changes to the existing controls or additional measures.
- 2.11 The next external IT Health Check will take place in May 2015 in readiness for our CoCo application to be resubmitted in October 2015.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 No options to consider – report only for information.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 No options to analyse – report only for information.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 No additional resources were required to gain PSN compliance. All necessary system and infrastructure changes were carried out by existing IT Services resources during normal working hours, evenings and weekends.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

N/A

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 The PSN compliance process was overseen by the IT Strategy Board throughout 2014.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Policy and Resources Cabinet Member notes the successful award of a PSN Code of Connection Compliance Certificate to November 2015.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: Martin Oglesby/ Jason R T Whaler
Date: 2 December 2014

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – None



Public Services Network Compliance Certificate

This is to certify that:

North Lincolnshire Council

has had its compliance verification activity reviewed and may act and operate under the following scope:

PSN Customer

during the following period:

**17 November
2014**

date issued:

**17 November
2015**

expiry date:

For and on behalf of the Public Services Network

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Smith".

Mark Smith
PSN Head of Compliance

This Compliance Certificate is issued following completion of the Public Services Network (PSN) compliance verification process for PSN Customers. The Certificate is valid until the expiry date shown above (your authorisation date). It may be withdrawn at any time in accordance with the PSN Compliance and PSN Code Template if it is found that you are non-compliant with PSN standards and requirements.