

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4th OCTOBER 2021

UPDATE AND INFORMATION

IT Systems

The following has been received from our IT systems supplier:

Dear Customer

National Cyber Security Centre (a part of GCHQ) are rolling out a pilot programme called Active Cyber Defence, which aims to help protect local government IT systems. As a supplier to the sector, we have been invited to register our services with the programme, and have done so.

What will Active Cyber Defence deliver?

Active Cyber Defence delivers a number of protections. The following are relevant to our services:

- National Cyber Security Centre will report to Microshade VSM any communication between our application hosting service (Local Council Community Cloud) and remote Internet services which they consider suspicious or malicious.*
- Local Council Community Cloud published applications will only be able to connect to Internet sites deemed safe by National Cyber Security Centre.*
- Council mailboxes may be checked for compliance with basic security requirements for public sector organisations (measures which Microshade VSM already put in place for users of our Exchange mailboxes).*

All customers will be included.

When we register, all customers of Local Council Community Cloud (Microshade VSM's application and mailbox hosting service) will be covered by default. We are unable to opt individual customers out.

Privacy

No data will pass through National Cyber Security Centre systems. National Cyber Security Centre will have visibility of addresses of Internet services visited from Local Council Community Cloud. In the event of any communications of concern are detected, this information will be provided back to Microshade VSM, for investigation.

Further information about National Cyber Security Centre privacy policy can be found by searching Privacy Information in the Help App on your Citrix Workspace dashboard.

This sounds like a positive move to further back up our already good service from Microshade.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk