

Disaster Recovery Plan – Briefing with Head of ICT

The Chairman of the Audit Committee met with Matt Scott, the Head of ICT, on 20 September 2012 to be briefed on the position with regard to disaster recovery.

At the briefing the Chairman was informed that Central Bedfordshire had an ICT architecture that was designed to provide high levels of resilience and reduce the impact of any significant technology failures. However, due to problems with the Storage Area Network (SAN) this architecture did not provide a sufficient level of disaster recovery capability. Work was therefore underway to replace the SAN and, once in place, the strategic Disaster Recovery Plan would be developed around the new architecture. It was anticipated that the SAN replacement work would be completed by March 2013.

The Head of ICT had emphasised, however, that even with the current SAN issues, the implementation of targeted resilience measures provided adequate disaster recovery capability for the Council's email and calendar system and the Social Care Case Management Systems. In addition the Council had a support contract with SunGard Capita to provide an emergency server environment from which to restore and recover systems should a data centre be lost.

Last, the Chairman was advised that SunGard Capita had been engaged to help the Council to develop measures and an associated Disaster Recovery Plan whilst the SAN solution was being implemented. The target date for the delivery of the interim Disaster Recovery Plan was 31 October 2012. In addition to the Plan a series of component disaster recovery tests would be carried out to prove the methodology and capability and determine actual recovery times.