

North York Moors National Park Authority Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

5 June 2017

Information Communications Technology Update

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on work currently being carried out to support and develop the Authority's Information Communications Technology.

2. NYM IT Security

- 2.1 Over the past 12/18 months there has been a significant rise in the UK in the number of targeted security attacks, most notably ransomware, phishing and whaling attacks.
- 2.1.1 Ransomware – a virus which encrypts files/data on your computer or network and you are then asked to pay a sum of money to receive the decryption key to release your files.
- 2.1.2 Phishing – The emailing of people trying to get login information from them. Often seen in the form of “Your latest Amazon order” or “Recent logon on to Facebook attempt” type emails which ask you to click a button and then enter logon information.
- 2.1.3 Whaling – The targeted attacks of senior employees within an organisation normally used to try to get to transfer money to an account.
- 2.2 With both the phishing and whaling attacks it is often quite difficult for traditional antivirus products/ email spam detection to pick up these emails as they don't carry any attachments and the email addresses aren't always easily detected as fake addresses. This means we have to rely more on user knowledge and education.
- 2.3 Since January 2017 the Authority has invested in two products.
- 2.3.1 Mimecast Targeted Threat Protection - Additional module to our existing spam filtering which protects against malicious links, social engineering and impersonation, defence against malicious email attachments and protection from internal email threats.
- 2.3.2 Metacompliance - This is a phish simulation and testing tool to allow us to safely target users to see how different phishing attacks are received and then responded to. It offers a learning experience if a user enters personal information and we will be using it to help inform all users about the risks of these attacks.
- 2.4 Over the coming months we will be looking at our new e learning tool that has been jointly procured with other NP's to see what IT Security training it can deliver and rolling the training out to Officers and Members.

3. K-Mobile app for Rights of Way Inspection

Verbal update and presentation

4. **Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5. **Recommendation**

5.1 That the work being carried out to support and develop the Authority's ICT be noted.

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