City of BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Managing Director, West Yorkshire Pension Fund to the meeting of West Yorkshire Pension Fund Pension Board to be held on 26th July 2023.

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Subject:

Letter from The Pensions Regulator (TPR) regarding cyber security and the recent incident with Capita.

Summary statement:

The letter in appendix A from TPR follows a cyber-incident at Capita. This reminds administrators about why prevention, detection and response is so important to pension schemes, scheme members and TPR.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

None

Euan Miller
Managing Director

Portfolio:

Report Contact: Matt Mott
Head of Governance and Business Development
Phone: 07815 476877
E-mail: matt.mott@wypf.org

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

1. SUMMARY

Recently Capita, a provider of private sector and public service pension administration, has been the victim of a cyber attack.

The Pension Regulator (TPR) has written to all pension scheme administrators reminding them of the key role they play in the safety and security of pension scheme member data.

TPR urge administrators to ensure they have robust security controls in place and set out the key factors in preventing, detecting and responding to a cyber incident.

2. WYPF Controls

WYPF takes a wide-ranging approach to cyber security. This has been demonstrated by:

- ISO 27001 – Information standard for Information Security Management Systems
- PSN Certificate – Public Sector Network security standard
- WYPF/CBMDC have a robust set of IT Security and Information policies, and staff must undertake e-learning training. Policies are regularly reviewed and adjusted in accordance with new research and industry best practice; for example, CBMDC are widening the use of multi-factor authentication for external access to systems.
- There is a comprehensive risk assessment process for new IT solutions as well as regular assessment of existing solutions. Independent Penetration Testing is carried out where necessary to provide assurance of WYPF's infrastructure.
- CBMDC deploy multiple firewalls and boundary controls including web filtering. There are numerous alerting and monitoring tools, a web application firewall that protects our public facing sites. CBMDC provides resilience and recovery through load balancers, replication across data centres and backup tools, and desktop anti-virus is deployed across the whole estate.
- E-mail represents one of the biggest attack vectors globally and it has recently been the entry point for most ransomware outbreaks. In order to combat this, CBMDC has multiple layers of defences covering reputation, spam, content and virus filtering. CBMDC deploys multiple antivirus engines in addition to leveraging the security and scanning provided by Microsoft's O365 filtering.
- Many threats still leverage known vulnerabilities that have not been fixed. CBMDC follow a regular patching programme for all devices and infrastructure across the network and makes use of industry standard deployment tools.

3. Training

WYPF is currently finalising a training plan for Board and Committee members which will incorporate cyber security so that members have a full understanding of the risks and mitigation that is in place.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

None

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

8.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

8.5 TRADE UNION

None.

8.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

None

8.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

None

8.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

None.

8.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

10. OPTIONS

N/A

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Pension Board note the importance of having robust cyber controls in place and attend the relevant training when it is scheduled.

12. APPENDIX

Appendix A – Letter from TPR