



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Officer Delegated Decision

7th February 2025

Deputy Chief Executive and s151
Officer

Acceptance and Usage of the ‘Get Cyber Assessment Framework Ready’ Grant

This report recommends the acceptance of the £15,000 grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to use for cyber security improvement projects.

Contact

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Decision made by:	Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer
Decision:	Officer Delegation
Public or Exempt:	This report is not exempt from publication
Reasons for exemption:	None
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	The Council’s Financial Regulations allow Directors to approve/accept grants and spend incurred by the Council within the limits set out in the Financial Regulations (Constitution) b) For carrying out works and/or the provision of goods and/or services.

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

1.1 Finance

The £15,000 grant is offered by MHCLG upon the successful completion of a self-assessment of the Councils current cyber position. The grant is offered unconditionally for use on cyber security related projects.

Completed by: Gillian Goddard (Senior Financial Accountant)

1.2 Procurement

The projects the grant will be used for are low value and in some cases in addition to existing contracts with already have.

As both requirements are being fulfilled by different suppliers, each value is 10K or less so direct award is in line with CPRs

Completed by: Helen Baldwin (Procurement Lead)

1.3 Legal and Governance

There are no significant legal or governance implications arising from this decision, which has followed a compliant procurement process.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To approve the acceptance of the £15,000 Get Cyber Assessment Framework Ready Grant from MHCLG
- 2.2 To approve the use of the grant for use on cyber improvement projects.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 £5,000 for cloud backup storage. This will allow backups to be retained in the cloud. Current backups are taken via tape and onto alternative servers but both are located at specific locations so still a small risk for business continuity purposes.
- 3.2 £10,000 for replacement of the Wireless Access Points (WAP) in SK House. The current devices have been in place for 5 years and go end of support life with the manufacturer in September 2025.
- 3.3 £5,000 for training of IT officers in cyber awareness.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 Options 3.1 and 3.2 are preferred as they fulfil the most immediate and important needs of the service and the Council.
- 4.2 The need for cloud backup storage away from the Councils network and properties has been identified in the latest Business Continuity Plan.
- 4.3 The Wireless network in SK House is causing some speed and technical issues for day-to-day operations of officers. The devices go end of life in September 2025 so need to be replaced before then for security reasons.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 The Cyber Assessment Framework is an important tool in ensuring the Council is as protected and up to date as possible against the threat of cyber-crime and equipped to respond and recover if an incident does occur. Working with the MHCLG allows access to grants such as this and is crucial in the work to protect the Authority.

Signed by: Richard Wyles
