

Report to: Policy & Finance Committee May 2021
From: Senior Policy & Data Compliance Monitoring Officer
Subject: Data Protection/UK GDPR Report

The provision of services by the Town Council leads to all departments processing personal data at some level so it is by default vital that all members of staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities.

Members will also process data during their work as a Councillor and similarly need to be aware of the need to process data safely and in line with legislation. Training will be arranged shortly.

The ICO recently held the annual Data Protection Practitioners Conference online which allowed me to attend some of the seminars. These were very useful as the legislative requirements continue to change and it was an opportunity to be briefed on the latest guidance including the new Data Sharing Code of Practice which has just been laid before parliament.

There was also a seminar on Cyber Security. Ransomware attacks are becoming increasingly common. An attack on Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council last year took several months to recover from and cost between £11 and £18 million. All staff and Members are reminded never to click on any links in emails that they are unsure of and login details to all STC systems should be secure and confidential.

The information gathered from these seminars will be fed back through training in due course.

Since the GDPR came into force in 2018 the ICO has continued to update their guidance resources and recently produced an accountability framework which has proved useful as a tool to identify areas that need attention. This continues to be worked on but the level of compliance within the Town Council is good. It is hoped to be able to resume onsite spot checks as the lockdown situation eases.