

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE AUDIT, STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

24TH NOVEMBER 2025, AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors E. M. S. Gray (Chairman), S. T. Nock (Vice-Chairman), S. Ammar, R. Bailes, J. Clarke, S. R. Colella, D. J. A. Forsythe, D. Hopkins, B. Kumar, B. McEldowney and J. D. Stanley

Observers:

Officers: Mr J. Leach, D Goodall, Ms. N Cummings, Mrs. R. Green, Mrs B. Talbot, Mr P. Bailey and Mrs S. Woodfield

33/25

CYBER SECURITY UPDATE (INCLUDING WHATSAPP AND AI POLICY)

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented the report and provided a verbal update that members were not being asked to consider the minutes of the Cyber Security Board meeting because this was a private meeting.

The Board were introduced to two policies for recommendation to Cabinet as follows:

- The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Acceptable Use Policy set principles for ethical, transparent AI use, GDPR compliance and training requirements.
- The WhatsApp Policy restricted use to non-sensitive information. It also set out risk mitigation and compliance steps.

After consideration of the report, Members raised the following key points:

- The specific restrictions which applied to the use of AI within the Council were requested with Members being informed that the policies within the report provided the necessary guidelines.
- The Council's current usage of AI by individuals within the Council? In response it was advised that usage was minimal at the time reporting.
- If there were intentions to utilise AI for the evaluation of Local Plan consultations? Officers agreed that this would be investigated further with the relevant Officers to understand if AI would be incorporated to assist with data analysis.
- Members were encouraged that policies and reassurance steps were in place to ensure Officers and Members would be receiving the training necessary to ensure the correct use of AI.
- The most effective use of AI within the workplace? In response Members were advised that assistance with meetings and key

areas in information management were reported as effective use of AI. The Chief Executive added that the Committee would be advised if any significant usage of AI within working practices was being considered.

- A typographical error for policy compliance within the presented document was highlighted and it was agreed would be rectified accordingly.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) That Cabinet adopts the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Acceptable Use Policy (Appendix 2) as a formal policy document and
- 2) That Cabinet adopts the WhatsApp Policy (Appendix 3) as a formal policy document.

The meeting closed at 8.08 p.m.

Chairman