## (IT) Information Technology Strategy



## **Document Control**

Responsible Person	Corporate Services Manager
Review Frequency	5-Yearly (Strategic Review)
Reviewed by	Board
Date Approved	December 2019
Next Review Due	December 2024

Responsible Person	Corporate Services Manager
Review Frequency	Annually (Yearly Update)
Reviewed by	Board
Date Approved	December 2020
Next Review Due	December 2021

Consultation Required	Yes		No	$\checkmark$
Equalities Impact Assessment	Yes		No	~
Added to Company Website	Yes	$\checkmark$	No	
Associated Documents Considered	Yes	$\checkmark$	No	

1	Introduction
1.1	This strategy sets out Waverley Housing's approach to using Information Technology (IT) to deliver a tenant focussed and cost-effective service.
2	Overall Aims and Vision of Strategy
2.1	Main aims of the strategy:
	<ul> <li>a) To improve delivery of services and improve efficiency, e.g. Housing Management System enhancements, use of web technology and mobile working.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>b) To make information and communication more accessible, e.g. through access to email, internet and company systems through continued development of communications infrastructure.</li> </ul>
	c) To build confidence and self-esteem of employees and enhance the working environment, e.g. through learning opportunities and access to IT.
	<ul> <li>d) To provide an effective and efficient IT infrastructure to meet current and future needs.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>e) To maintain current IT systems whilst continually reviewing service needs against market developments.</li> </ul>
2.2	Our Vision:
	<ul> <li>a) Waverley Housing will have a fully integrated and comprehensive housing, property and financial management system.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>b) Waverley Housing will have an interactive web site, enabling our customers and partners access to our services.</li> </ul>
	c) Waverley Housing will support employees and Board Members to develop their IT skills.
	d) Waverley Housing will have a company intranet for use by office-based employees.
	<ul> <li>e) Waverley Housing will provide effective IT support to reduce time on administration allowing staff more time to focus on service delivery.</li> </ul>
3	Objectives for the next five years
3.1	The Portal, Web Site & Intranet:
	a) Provide 24 hour and 7 days per week access to interactive information on Waverley Housing through the www.waverley-housing.co.uk site.
	b) Develop our website to provide tenants secure access to their rent account details.
	<ul> <li>c) Develop the intranet to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of all internal communication.</li> </ul>
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3.2	<ul> <li><u>A Best Value Tenant Focus:</u></li> <li>a) Create a tenant-focussed company by integrating computer systems and creating more efficient processes.</li> <li>b) Evaluate relevant new ICT products and services.</li> <li>c) Ensure ICT investments are best value.</li> </ul>
3.3	<ul> <li><u>The Technology Infrastructure:</u></li> <li>a) Continue to develop systems to assist in the communication process.</li> <li>b) Continue to develop systems to assist in performance management.</li> <li>c) Monitor marketplace for cost effective integrated mobile working solutions which interface with Open Housing and consider suitability for use by the company.</li> <li>d) Evaluate Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Content Management System (CMS) products and develop where appropriate.</li> <li>e) Continue to evaluate benefits of cloud-based software and products.</li> </ul>
4	Website
4.1	<ul> <li>The public, current and potential tenants will have access to the most up-to-date information on our services.</li> <li>We now provide more detailed information on properties available to rent. We have also streamlined the process to view and apply for our properties.</li> <li>The main priorities for 2021 are: <ul> <li>a) To continue to enhance and develop website content including photographs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Future years' priorities are: <ul> <li>a) To consider a full re-design of the website.</li> <li>b) To consider enhancements to the features available to tenants.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5	Social Media
5.1	Continue the development of social media tools such as Twitter and Facebook to enhance communication with tenants and other customers and enhance our presence on social media.
6	Software
6.1	Open Housing, Open Financials and InSight

	Waverley Housing main software systems are Open Housing (housing management system), Open Financials (financial reporting) and InSight (reporting). All are provided by Capita Software.
	In 2020 we upgraded to Open Housing version 16.01.01.
	The main priorities for 2021 are:
	a) Develop and implement a training plan to improve the skills of Open Housing users.
	b) Consider upgrading to latest versions of Open Housing and Open Accounts.
	c) Ensure ongoing compliance with "Making Tax Digital" requirements.
	<ul> <li>Monitor marketplace for cost effective integrated mobile working / works planning solutions which interface with Open Housing and consider suitability for use by the company.</li> </ul>
	Future years' priorities are:
	a) Development of Planned Maintenance module.
	b) On-going development of the report library in Capita Insight.
	c) Ongoing development of Open Housing.
6.2	Other systems
	Other systems operated by the company are:
	a) Sage HR 50 (human resource management software).
	b) Sage Payroll 50 (payroll software)
	c) Real Asset Management Series 4000 (financial fixed asset register).
	d) BACSCOM IP (electronic payments/collections).
	e) Housing Brixx (strategic modelling).
	f) Filestream (electronic document management).
	g) Mobysoft (rent arrears management)
	Future years' priorities are:
	a) Consider integrated HR and Payroll system.
	b) Develop Housing BRIXX.
	c) Develop Filestream
7	Supporting Software
7.1	Network/Desktop Operating Software
	Application servers are currently running Microsoft Server 2016.
	Computers/laptops are currently running Windows 10.
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7.2	Office Software
	All PCs use Microsoft Office 365.
7.3	<u>Email</u>
	The company uses Microsoft Exchange Online.
7.4	Storage Management
	The company has a comprehensive backup process, enabling automatic backups. Cloud based backups are also taken. Details of the backup process can be found in the "Information Technology Back-Up & Restoration Procedure".
7.5	<u>Virus Software</u>
	The company always runs effective up to date antivirus software. We currently use Microsoft Windows Defender and Sentinel Agent.
7.6	Other Software
	The company restricts the use of other software on its PCs. Compliance is in accordance with the Information Technology Policy.
8	Hardware
8.1	Servers
	The company operates 3 Virtual Servers. A backup server is also maintained in Meeting Room1. These are to ensure continuity of system services to users and provides an enhanced disaster recovery facility.
8.2	PC Hardware
	To facilitate working out-with the office, desktop machines are being replaced with laptops where appropriate.
	Housing Officers and Property Officers have been provided cellular iPads. The cost v benefits of expanding our use of tablets will be considered on a case by case basis.
	To ensure laptops/PCs are kept up to date we will continually review and monitor their provision.
8.3	Multi-functional devices (MFD)
	The company operates 3 Canon MFDs. These are networked and act as a copier, printer, scanner and fax. One was replaced in September 2018 the other 2 were replaced in May 2019.
8.4	Document Scanners

	Were introduced in as part of the implementation of our electronic document management system. Additional scanners will be purchased as required.
8.5	Laser Printers Following the Covid-19 pandemic laser printers have been purchased to support staff working from home. Additional printers will be purchased as required.
9	Communications
9.1	<u>Telephone System</u> The Company's Cisco IP telephone system was installed in May 2014. It is still considered fit for purpose. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.
9.2	<u>Mobile Communications and Remote Working</u> The company provides smart phones with email facility to members of the management team and to all staff working off site. During the year mobile phones were provided to staff working from home due to Covid-19. Remote access to the company servers from out-with the office has been expanded to accommodate all office-based staff who are currently home-working. All staff can access their emails remotely. Staff can access key mobile forms on their smartphones using Google Forms & DoForms.
10	Cyber Security
10.1	Cyber security's function is to protect our devices and services from theft or damage and to prevent unauthorised access to our data including personal information we store on these devices and online. Security of the information on the system is paramount both to give public confidence on entering personal information on the web site but also to ensure General Data Protection Regulations and audit requirements are met. Services where private information is critical such as financial or personal data will require the highest levels of security to verifying that the correct person is being given their own information and that appropriately qualified and authorised staff are accessing it. During 2020 the company achieved Cyber Essentials accreditation.
11	Procurement

11.1	The IT Officer is responsible for IT procurement. The preferred methods to ensure best value are:
	a) The Crown Commercial Service (CCS).
	b) Procurement for Housing.
	c) Scottish Procurement Alliance.
	d) Preferred suppliers.
12	Resources
12.1	Resources fall into three categories:
	a) Staff Time (implementation and training).
	b) External Consultant.
	c) Hardware and Software Costs.
	Any related costs will be provided for in the budget for the appropriate year.
13	Skills
13.1	The IT Officer and IT Assistant provide comprehensive hardware and operating system support. They also provide limited application software support to all the packages operated by the company by working with the end users.
	The basic skills that exist within IT section are adequate to meet most tasks that are required. Where additional skills and/or knowledge is required training will be provided, or support from external consultants will be sourced.
	Additional server support is currently provided by Kick ICT. The contract is reviewed on an annual basis.

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No.	Risk	Potential Implications	Controls
Acquisiti	on of Hardware & Software		
1	Wrong equipment acquired	<ul> <li>Incompatible systems</li> <li>Business objectives not met</li> <li>Waste of resources</li> <li>Missed opportunity to improve operational efficiency</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Existence of IT strategy, along with regular review</li> <li>Annual budgets prepared</li> <li>Adequate procurement process         <ul> <li>Purchase order procedure</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	Business needs not met	<ul> <li>Missed opportunity to improve operational efficiency</li> <li>Disgruntled users</li> <li>Waste of resources</li> <li>Financial loss</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Procurement procedure</li> <li>Different methods of financing are investigated, and method chosen is in line with overall financial strateg</li> <li>A contract appraisal is undertaken, if necessary.</li> </ul>
3	Poor management of installation and implementation	<ul> <li>Ongoing problems with hardware and software operations and system functionality</li> <li>Ineffective use of staff time</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A recommendation and decision is made based on the evaluation of tenders, if required</li> <li>Installation programme is planned</li> <li>Any necessary testing is undertaken prior to acceptance</li> </ul>
4	Methods of financing not appropriate	<ul><li>Potential budgetary problems</li><li>Financial loss</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Staff are adequately trained</li> <li>Post implementation reviews are undertaken within agreed timescales</li> </ul>
5	Procurement procedures not adhered to	<ul> <li>Potentially poor value for money</li> <li>Challenges from companies who were unsuccessful</li> </ul>	Check whether insurance cover is affected

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No.	Risk	Potential Implications	Controls
Network Securi	ty		
1	Sporadic network development	<ul> <li>Incompatible systems being introduced</li> <li>Network not meeting users expectations</li> <li>Waste of resources</li> <li>Lack of standardisation may lead to over-reliance on certain technical skills</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Appropriate Management Controls over Network</li> <li>Network users are adequately trained</li> <li>Technical standards and configuration information will be documented</li> <li>Network activity is monitored to ensure that performance is optimised</li> <li>Only authorised users are permitted access to network</li> </ul>
2	Poor network performance	<ul> <li>Lack of confidence in network</li> <li>Inefficient working practices</li> <li>Unable to support business processes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>There is formal registration and de-registration procedure in place to ensure only authorised users ar permitted to access network</li> <li>Passwords are changed on a regular basis</li> </ul>
3	Unauthorised access to systems and/or data	<ul> <li>Financial loss</li> <li>Loss or disclosure of confidential or sensitive data</li> <li>Fraud</li> <li>Breach of legislation, e.g. Data Protection</li> <li>Bad publicity and reputational damage</li> <li>Notifiable Event to be reported to the Scottish Housing Regulator</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Check for number of unsuccessful login attempts and investigate possible intrusion attempts</li> <li>Dial up access to network is secure, with remote user being suitably identified</li> <li>Recognised firewall system in place, with firewall activity logs regularly reviewed</li> <li>Encryption is used to prevent unauthorised access to data transmitted over network (internet)</li> <li>Minimise network failure through:</li> </ul>
4	Virus infection	<ul> <li>Loss of data and/or systems</li> <li>Cost to clear up infection</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Support and maintenance agreements in place</li> <li>Cloud-based backups in place</li> </ul>
5	Network failure	<ul> <li>Interruption to the day-to-day operations</li> <li>Financial loss</li> <li>Bad publicity and reputational damage</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All data is regularly backed up</li> <li>Anti-virus software is installed, and is up to date</li> <li>Disaster recovery process in place</li> </ul>

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No.	Risk	Potential Implications	Controls
System Develo	pment		
1	No standards for system development	• System may not be delivered on time or within budget, or to the required standard	<ul> <li>Project manager is appointed</li> <li>Development methodology is produced</li> </ul>
2	User requirements not well documented and clearly stated	System does not meet users' needs	<ul> <li>Specification is produced</li> <li>Users are included in the implementation of syst</li> <li>Project plan is prepared and maintained</li> </ul>
3	No feasibility study carried out	<ul> <li>Poor systems analysis and design</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Risk analysis prepared for project</li> <li>Monitoring and control of costs/resources against</li> </ul>
4	No risk analysis carried out	Failure to identify significant risks	system specification and project plan
5	Inadequate resources	<ul> <li>Project may not be accomplished successfully</li> <li>Project may run into difficulties</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>System test plan is prepared</li> <li>All plans are updated timeously</li> <li>Tests are documented and reviewed regularly</li> </ul>
6	Inadequate testing	<ul> <li>Implementation of system which is not robust</li> <li>System does not meet user's requirements</li> <li>Errors and problems</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Regular update reports prepared for Manageme Board</li> <li>Management to identify training needs and draft programme (via appraisals).</li> <li>Internal Software Reviews</li> </ul>
7	Staff have inadequate IT Skills	<ul> <li>Failure to utilise software</li> <li>Inefficient processing</li> <li>Failure to develop systems</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>IT Assistant appointed to provide software suppointed users.</li> </ul>

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Item	2021	2022 to 2026
WEBSITE / INTERNET	<ul> <li>To enhance and develop website content.</li> <li>Evaluate cloud-based software and products.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>To consider full redesign of website.</li> <li>To enhance and develop website content.</li> <li>Evaluate cloud-based software and products.</li> <li>To consider the features available to tenants through Op Access.</li> </ul>
SOCIAL MEDIA	Develop social media tools such as Twitter and Facebook.	<ul> <li>Develop social media tools such as Twitter and Facebook.</li> </ul>
CAPITA SYSTEMS	<ul> <li>Continue with a training plan for Open Housing users.</li> <li>Monitor marketplace for cost effective integrated mobile working / works planning solutions which interface with Open Housing and consider suitability for use by the company.</li> <li>Consider upgrading to latest version of Open Housing.</li> <li>Ensure ongoing compliance with "Making Tax Digital." library in Insight Reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ongoing review and development of system</li> <li>Development of Planned Maintenance module</li> <li>Development of report library in Capita Insight.</li> <li>Monitor marketplace for cost effective integrated mob working / works planning solutions which interface wi Open Housing and consider suitability for use by the company.</li> </ul>
OTHER SYSTEMS	<ul> <li>Continually under review.</li> <li>Develop Brixx Housing.</li> <li>Develop Filestream.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continually under review.</li> <li>Consider integrated HR &amp; Payroll system.</li> </ul>
SUPPORTING SOFTWARE	<ul> <li>Continually under review</li> <li>All computers/laptops to run Microsoft Windows 10</li> <li>All servers to run Microsoft Server 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continually under review</li> <li>Evaluate Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Content Management Systems (CMS)</li> </ul>

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Item	2021	2022 to 2026
HARDWARE	Continually under review / replace as necessary	Continually under review / replace as necessary
MFDs	Continually under review	<ul><li>Continually under review</li><li>Due for replacement in 2025</li></ul>
TELEPHONE SYSTEM	Continually under review	Continually under review
MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS	Continually under review and replace as necessary	Continually under review and replace as necessar
BACKUPS	Continually under review	Continually under review
SECURITY	<ul><li>Continually under review</li><li>Annual check by Kick ICT</li></ul>	<ul><li>Continually under review</li><li>Annual check by Kick ICT</li></ul>