

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	11
Date:	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2008	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Government Connect Code of Practice		
Report by:	Director of Resources		
Other Officers Involved	Senior IT Projects Officer		
Director	Director of Resources		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Corporate Efficiency		

#### **RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS**

**Customer Services** - By improving the method of exchanging customer data with the Department for Work and Pensions.

**Strategic Organisational Development** – By changing the way we work electronically to a more secure method.

The security of electronic communications indirectly supports all of the Corporate aims.

#### **TARGETS**

This does not contribute to any targets specified in any approved plans.

#### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

This does not specifically deliver value for money for the Council and its customers.

#### **THE REPORT**

Government Connect is a recognised, accredited and trusted secure government network for all Local Authorities in England and Wales. The network is called GCSx and it enables secure data sharing up to restricted level across government.

It is a key enabler in the drive to transform services, with particular focus on joined-up working, shared services, identity management and efficiency gains via solutions that provide secure communication capabilities.

The GCSx network enables local government to work more easily with other government departments and agencies that are already part of a “community of

trust”, for example the Government Secure Intranet for Central Government Departments, the Criminal Justice Extranet for the police and criminal justice and the network for the NHS. Local authorities will be able to join this community and will help deliver secure electronic services to the public.

The ICT Department has been working towards achieving the code of connection, the Authority must comply with this before being allowed to join the GCSx. The date that the Government require us to be compliant by is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. Elected Members will have training on the impact to them of this development in the New Year.

The cost of joining GCSx is being funded by Government until March 2011. At that point Authorities will have to decide whether any future cost is warranted against the business benefits.

### **ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Whether to sign the attached code of practice for the Government Secure Intranet.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial:                   None until March 2011  
Legal:                       None  
Human Resources:   None

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**To agree that the Director of Resources is authorised to sign the Code of Practice on behalf of the Authority.**

### **REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION**

In order to improve the security of communications with Government and work as efficiently with Government & local government as possible.

ATTACHMENTS:           **Y**  
FILE REFERENCE:       **code of practice**