Yorkhill Housing Association   **AGENDA ITEM 6 A**

Report to: Management Committee 11TH February 2021

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Subject: Disaster Recovery Proposal (FOR DECISION)

Brightridge have reviewed the current set up at YHA and the recommendation is to upgrade to a full Disaster recovery system which will consist of a Hybrid Onsite/Cloud solution.

The Association currently has a disaster recovery service in place with Brightridge which has not been reviewed for some time.

Further to a full costing exercise Brightridge have recommended Axcient as the preferred supplier. A full detailed proposal is attached in Appendix 1. The proposal has been discussed with Senior Staff.

Current set up

The current set up is a manual back up service that operates by swapping tapes that back up the data, this requires manual work by staff to insert the tapes, the tapes then need to be taken off site and are securely stored in the Overnewton Centre. A second back up tape is stored in a Fire proof safe in the office. This manual process in now outdated and carries some considerable risk of data loss.

The back-up server held in the office server room is also outdated and is showing signs of failure.

In the unlikely event of a disaster the process would be to source new hardware, configure hardware, reinstall applications and data from the back up tapes, this process could take 2-3 days to source hardware suitable, maybe longer, and another 2-3 days to build and restore, the total time out would be between 4- 10 days which would have a significant effect on business continuity.

Proposal

Brightridge are recommending an uplift in operations and recovery.

Brightridge will build an onsite server and back up all your data and services to an onsite server automatically, this then migrates the data to the cloud server giving full replication of data on the ground and in the cloud. All data with be held in the cloud with EU area and satisfies all GDPR requirements.

An additional layer of protection is then added called AirGap , this replicates the cloud data to a second cloud environment and creates a firewall between the two cloud instances to give full protection from ransomware, should a ransomware attack be suffered and access the cloud via the onsite system hack, the second back up cannot be accessed and we can easily and quickly reset the servers to a point before the attack totally removing the threat.

Should a server fail on site Brightridge will simply set up the onsite backup server, repoint the staff to work on the backup server until such time as the server is repaired or replaced. If the office should suffer damage such as a fire, they would set up the cloud servers allowing staff to work from anywhere via a VPN connection.

This takes all manual work away from the process fully automating this process. Brightridge will also monitor the backups 24/7 which is integrated into our automatic and ticketing system alerting support of any failed backups.

The system also daily starts the backup servers to check working automatically and reports any failures to allow support to check and fix any issues. Brightridge will also do a full Disaster recovery test annually to show the backup cloud working fully, we set up to allow staff to test the system.

Costing

At present the Association is paying £1,848 per annum for disaster recovery provision. The backup server hardware was purchased some years ago and has been fully depreciated.

The new proposal offers a lease or purchase agreement for the hardware and a monthly fee for service provision covering four servers.

Senior staff discussed the two options and recommend that the Association lease the hardware over a three year period. The main benefit would be if the equipment were to fail during the three year period then a replacement would be issued and the cost is spread equally over three years.

The Association will own the equipment at the end of the three year agreement and the monthly cost will reduce thereafter.

The table below compares the current costs against the options of lease or purchase over a three year period:

	Current Provision	**Lease**	**Buy**
Hardware	£0	£0	£1,750
Monthly fee(36 months)	£5,544	£12,060	£9,900
3 year total cost	£5,544	£12,060	£11,650

Recommendation: Approval requested to upgrade to Hybrid Onsite/Cloud solution on a 3 year lease agreement.