

Councillor Gow re-entered the meeting following consideration of this item of business.

#### **EX91. GSX/PSN COMPLIANCE**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services presenting the background to GSX/PSN, the requirements regarding compliance, the Council's immediate response to this and the future actions which require to be taken to ensure continued compliance.

The Council is currently accredited to use the Cabinet Office's secure network called GSX/PSN to access various systems such as DWP benefit information, registration of births, deaths etc. and to communicate with organisations via the secure email system.

The Cabinet Office had undertaken a review of its security arrangements which had resulted in all users of its network having to adhere to stringent revised security arrangements or otherwise to run the risk of being disconnected.

Officers had carried out substantial work to address issues and to ensure that the Council's accreditation application reflects a genuine desire to ensure compliance with the Code of Connection and give the Cabinet Office the assurance required to re-accredit the Council.

In order that compliance is maintained, the Council requires to install permanent solutions in a number of areas, which may result in significant costs. Due to the timescales involved for the implementation of these solutions, it is proposed that the purchase of the necessary software, hardware and equipment are met from existing budgets.

#### **Decision**

##### **The Executive:-**

- (1) noted the details of the report;**
- (2) authorised officers to work with existing budgets to procure robust solutions for Mobile Device Management, GSX mail, separation of teachers and classrooms from the Council's network and undertake any other remedial work required to ensure compliance with the Code of Connection, and**
- (3) asked officers to continue to provide updates to services and Members and, in addition, to submit an update report to the Executive in January 2014.**