

Brixham Town Council

Report No:	47-2018		
Report Type:	Public		
Title:	Website Security		
To:	Full Council	Date:	13.12.18
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Purpose of Report

To consider upgrading the security of the Town Council website from http to https with the padlock symbol. This is part of a national drive to ensure websites are using secure connections.

Background

The Town Council has been advised by Western Web (our website provider) that users of our webpage may receive warnings indicating that the connection is not secure. These warnings are part of a drive to upgrade web sites to use secure connection. This ensures that third parties cannot eavesdrop on any data sent by a visitor using a form on the web site.

What is HTTPS (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure)

Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) is the secure version of HTTP, the protocol over which data is sent between your browser and the website that you are connected to. The 'S' at the end of HTTPS stands for 'Secure'. It means all communications between your browser and the website are encrypted.

The effect of the upgrade is to change the web address from <http://www.brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/> to <https://www.brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/> the inclusion of the 's' on http address indicates that the site uses encryption, and the browser will also display a padlock symbol.

This is necessary even if the web site does not collect data from visitors, the public perception is that the web site is somehow unsafe or insecure, and it is recommended that all local authority web sites should be upgraded.

Cost

The cost for the upgrade is £13 + VAT per year for a digital security certificate, plus a one-time fee of £75 + VAT for ensuring that all the links within the site are secure.

Once the site has been upgraded no further action is required other than to renew the certification each year.

The cost of the certificate would be added to the annual hosting/content management licence/email fee, which will increase from £67 + VAT to £80 + VAT per year from your next hosting renewal.

Recommendation

The community Services committee considered the recommendation from Western Web and it was agreed to recommend to Full Council to proceed with the upgrade.