**Advisory Note to Partners – Secure Email at Birmingham City Council**

This advisory note is intended for organisations that exchange sensitive information by email with Birmingham City Council. It explains that we have implemented the latest government advice on email security due to the withdrawal of the ‘[gcsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changing-government-email-migrating-from-gsi/changing-government-email-migrating-from-gsi)’ email email service on 29 March 2019. You may need to check with your own IT department or provider to establish what facilities you have in place to send and receive email securely.

Following a Government announcement in 2016 about the future of GCSx secure email, Birmingham City Council took the decision to follow the latest government guidance on how public-sector email services should be secured. These new standards have now been implemented. This change enables Birmingham City Council to exchange emails securely with other organisations that have adopted these new standards.

We expect that all public bodies will adopt these standards but, as a minimum, if your organisation has implemented an up to date version of Transport Layer Security (TLS)

for incoming and outgoing emails, then emails can be exchanged securely without risking them being intercepted in transit. Your IT department or provider will be able to confirm whether your organisation has TLS in place. If you have fully implemented the new standard then this will also give you assurance that emails exchanged between our organisations are genuine and the addresses are not “spoofed”.

If you have received emails from us in the past with “gcsx” included in the address it should be noted that this will no longer be present from XX March 2019 onwards. Therefore any address ending “@birmingham.gov.uk” is now secured in line with the new government standard as described above.

Government advice for IT departments or providers for securing public sector email services can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/securing-government-email>.