

## 132 DATA PROTECTION

The PRGP Committee has agreed that the 104 hours inadvertently provided for the General Assistant post in the adopted 2018-19 TH Budget may be utilised if the hours are used, as and when necessary, for particular pieces of work – including, importantly, ensuring that RTC complies with the new data protection regime (GDPR) by 25 May 2018. There remains a considerable amount to be done by this date – including reviewing systems, adopting new procedures and policies, and addressing security issues.

The GDPR requires public authorities (including parish/town councils) to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO). This may be an internal appointment – subject to the post holder being an expert (not defined – but the level of expertise should be ‘in proportion’ to the amount – and type – of personal data the organisation collects/processes), independent (not a senior staff member), adequately resourced and free to perform the role unhindered.

The cost of RTC appointing an external DPO (or DPO service) is likely to range from £400-£1,500pa – and it is apparent that many providers do not fully understand the public sector. Furthermore, there are providers offering ‘virtual’ packages and it is difficult to see how these would meet the requirements of the GDPR without a least one meeting/visit to check a council’s existing procedures/systems.

Training for the DPO role specifically ranges from c£400-£2,500.

The most cost-effective option would for RTC to train and appoint the General Assistant to the DPO role.

Ideally, during the initial preparation and implementation period, it would be helpful for the DPO to have access to a DPO specialist.