



Our Associate Andy, who consults extensively on business resilience and cyber security, has produced some areas for you to consider in preparation for 2017.

One thing is for sure 2017 is going to be filled with change...

- What will the terms of Brexit be when Theresa May invokes Article 50 and how will they impact the UK?
- Will inflation in the UK rise as predicted by Mark Carney?
- What will the new policies of President-Elect Trump mean for the World?
- How will the General Elections to be held in Holland, France and Germany impact Europe?
- Will the current peace plan negotiated by Russia for Syria hold?
- How will the continuing cyber threat impact the UK and the overall global economy?

Unfortunately, no one has a crystal ball to predict the future but actions to improve organisational resiliency, would enable you to be better positioned to embrace the positive opportunities and to manage the negative impacts that 2017 may herald.

10 tips to help your business become more resilient in 2017

1. Governance

- Ensure you have an upto date business plan and strategy with clearly defined processes for 'How you do business'
- Ensure you have risk policies to protect your key assets that is both internally and externally focused

2. Communicate your strategy

- Everyone in your business should know your plan, strategy and policies.
- These should be regularly monitored, reviewed and communicated with particular focus on the areas that are of greatest risk or value to you

3. User Profiles & Passwords

- Each member of staff should have their own user profile to enable them to only do what you want or need them to do
- Everyone should have their own STRONG password which is regularly changed and not shared
- Never write down your password

4. Data Management

- Criminals want your data as its valuable to them so its need protecting
- Ensure staff only have access to data they need to perform their roles
- Any data shared across your business or externally should be encrypted or password protected so only those you want to access it can



5. Cyber Crime

- Ensure you and your staff are aware of the latest cyber threats to your business and their role in keeping your business safe
- Continually educate your staff around matters like phishing or ransom ware

6. Supply Chains

- Any supplier to your business must be checked out before you enter into contract and then regularly monitored once you start working with them
- Products supplied to you should be investigated to understand the originating source and how they are manufactured. Failure to do so may damage your business reputation
- Products supplied to you should be subject to quality checks and regular testing

7. Mobile Devices

- Increasingly we allow staff to use their own devices for your business purposes e.g mobile phones
- Ensure you have defined and staff have agreed to your terms for use of these devices and how your business data is managed and secured
- Ensure you and your staff know how data on their personal device will be controlled should they leave your business

8. Contingency plans

- Unfortunately, even with the best laid plans things do go wrong.
- Ensure you have considered the 'what if' questions for ALL the key areas of your business and have contingency arrangements in place to lessen the impact

9. Security patches and software

- Security patches and software updates must be up to date as they have been supplied to you for a good reason.
- All patches and updates need to be implemented immediately or timely

10. Business Standards

- Whilst standards may be perceived as only being applicable to big corporates, the reality is that more and more SME's are being asked to certify.
- Is there a possibility that your key customers will ask for you to certify in 2017 or could certification help you win new business against the competition?
- Standards such as Cyber Essentials or ISO 9001, 14001 or 27001 are evidence of your business strength.

This list may seem daunting but good governance, processes and policies will help your business become more resilient.

If you'd like to discuss further support for your business please call 01892 832059 or email kate@athelbrae.co.uk to arrange a meeting for a chat.