



REPORT TO:	Audit & Governance Committee
DATE:	19 th June 2024
SUBJECT:	Combined Assurance Status Report 2023/24
PURPOSE:	To present to the Committee the Council's Combined Assurance Status Report 23/24
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Craig Leyland, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs
REPORT OF:	John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer
REPORT AUTHOR:	John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	None
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

The Combined Assurance Status Report provides a record of assurance against the Council's critical services, key risks, partnerships and projects. It supports the Council's commitment to achieving good corporate governance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee reviews the Combined Assurance Status Report 2023/4 (attached at **Appendix A**) and seeks to assure itself that the findings illustrate that the assurance framework is operating effectively as part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To support corporate governance arrangements within the Council.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The purpose of the Combined Assurance Status Report (**Appendix A**) is to produce a record of assurance against the Council's critical services, key risks, partnerships and projects.

2. REPORT

2.1 This report provides an overview of assurance across the Council making it possible to identify where assurances are present, their source and where there are potential 'unknowns or gaps.' It offers a triangulated view of assurance with opinion provided by management, corporate and/or third party assurance and Internal Audit. The Combined Assurance Report is produced annually, and this report covers the year 2023/4.

2.2 The report details the methodology that was used, and the levels of assurance identified. The assurance assessment, as explained in the report, is based on the 'three levels of assurance' model. By conducting this work, the Council is in a position to be able to identify where it needs to obtain further assurance and at what levels.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The findings will be used to focus on areas of improvement and helps to inform the Internal Audit workplan 2024/25 and the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

Effective governance arrangements support the work of the Partnership

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Effective governance arrangements are an essential element of the delivery of all corporate priorities

STAFFING

None

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

Effective corporate governance arrangements ensure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently, and effectively.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

None

REPUTATION

None

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

None

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

none

ACRONYMS

none

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX A	Combined Assurance Status Report 2023/24

BACKGROUND PAPERS
No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer
----------------	---

Signed off by:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer
----------------	---

Approved for publication:	Senior Leadership Team
---------------------------	------------------------