



**GA.17 13/14**

**Committee – Governance &  
Audit**

**26 September 2013**

**F**

**Subject: Combined Assurance Report**

Report by:

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Purpose / Summary:

To present the Council's Combined Assurance Report (Autumn 2011 – Spring 2013)

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**For Members to review the Combined Assurance Report and note its contents.**

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal: None**

**Financial: None**

**Staffing: None**

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None**

**Risk Assessment: None**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None**

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

### Call in and Urgency:

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

**Yes**

**No**

**X**

### Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

**No**

**X**



## **Executive Summary**

Not applicable.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Combined Assurance Statement provides an overall assessment of the level of assurance that we can take on the most important areas of business conducted by the council.
- 1.2 The statement triangulates the evidence that we have from three lines of assurance, from the first to the third lines as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Front line managers
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Internal audit
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Third party or internal independent assessments.
- 1.3 The system has been developed by Audit Lincolnshire and takes into account the changes in approach to the audit regime by both internal and external audit, to take a more risk based approach to developing the audit plan and having an overall view of the health of the organisation as a whole.

## **2 Combined Assurance Report**

- 2.1 This is the first Combined Assurance Report undertaken at West Lindsey District Council. It provides a view on levels of assurance on systems and services Autumn 2011 and Spring 2013.
- 2.2 The statement details the methodology that was used and the levels of assurance that we currently have.
- 2.3 By carrying out this work, we are in a position to be able to identify where we need to gain further assurance and at what levels and will be used to focus on areas for improvement.
- 2.4 The statement will be used as a basis for learning and improvement and will be updated to provide an overall level of assurance, focussing on the critical areas for the council in achieving strategic objectives for the 2013/14 period.