



**Governance & Audit
Committee**

12 April 2022

Subject: Combined Assurance Report 2021/22

Report by:	Assistant Director People & Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Emma Redwood Assistant Director People & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Purpose / Summary:	To present to the Governance & Audit Committee a copy of the Council's Combined Assurance Report for 2021/22

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That Members approve the report
2. That Members be assured that the findings illustrate that the Council's governance framework is operating effectively

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: No legal implications

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/8/23

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Staffing : None

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None

Data Protection Implications :None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

Health Implications: None

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

None.

Risk Assessment : None

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

Key Decision:

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

Yes

No

Introduction

The purpose of the Combined Assurance Report is to produce a record of assurance against our critical activities and risks. It 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 ending 31st March 2022.

Combined Assurance Report

This is the latest Combined Assurance Report undertaken at West Lindsey District Council. It provides a view on assurance systems and services for the year ending March 2022, the report is available as Appendix 1.

The reports details the methodology that was used and the levels of assurance that we currently have. The assurance assessment, as explained in the report, is based on the 'three levels of assurance' model.

By conducting this work, we are in a position to be able to identify where we need to obtain further assurance and at what levels. The findings will be used to focus on areas of improvement and potentially form issues to be addressed within the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

Findings

This report, as presented, represents a realistic, yet positive picture of the levels of assurance in place across the Council and illustrates that our assurance framework is working well.

The findings of the report show that across the critical activities and emerging risks which were within the report's scope, 49% are assessed as performing well (green), 49% require some attention (amber) and 2% require focussed attention. Reference is made below to those areas categorised as red in nature:

- Transactional Services – Gainsborough Market
- Governance – Safeguarding and Procurement
- Strategic Risk – ICT Security and Information Governance

Next Steps

The Combined Assurance Report is used to shape the Internal Audit workplan 2022/23 and the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22. The report will be used as a basis for learning, improvements and business planning.

Recommendation

That Members approve the report

That Members be assured that the findings illustrate that the Council's governance framework is operating effectively