



**Governance and Audit
Committee**

Tuesday, 18 April 2023

Subject: Combined Assurance Report 2022/23

Report by:

Interim Assistant Director People & Democratic Services, & Monitoring Officer, and Principal Auditor – Audit & Risk Management – Lincolnshire County Council

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To present to the Governance & Audit Committee a copy of the Council's Combined Assurance Report for 2022/23

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.

Financial: FIN/8/24/PD

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Staffing: None directly arising from this report.

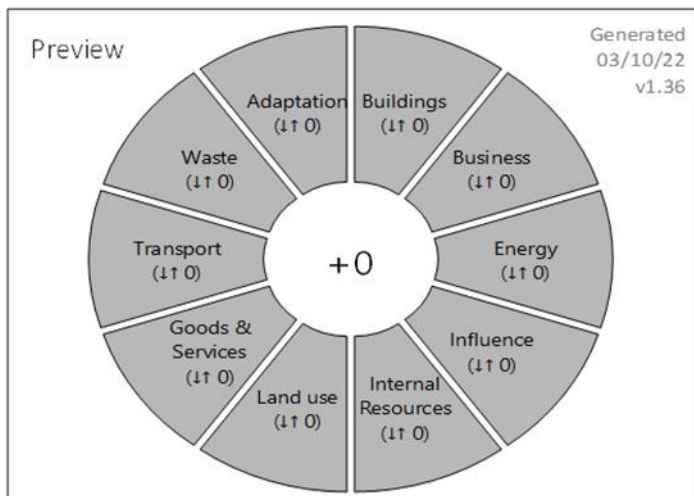
Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

None directly arising from this report.

Data Protection Implications: None directly arising from this report.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

None directly arising from this report.



Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

None directly arising from this report.

Health Implications:

None directly arising from this report.

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

N/A

Risk Assessment :
N/A

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

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 2023.

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 2023, 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

The findings can be found in the attached report.

Next Steps

The Combined Assurance Report is used to shape the Internal Audit workplan 2023/24 and the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23. The report will be used as a basis for learning, improvements and business planning.

Recommendation

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