



**Governance and Audit  
Committee**

**Tuesday, 16 April 2024**

**Subject: Combined Assurance Report 2023/24**

Report by:	Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer, West Lindsey District Council
Contact Officer:	Emma Foy Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer  Emma.foy@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To present to the Governance & Audit Committee a copy of the Council's Combined Assurance Report for 2023/24

**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.

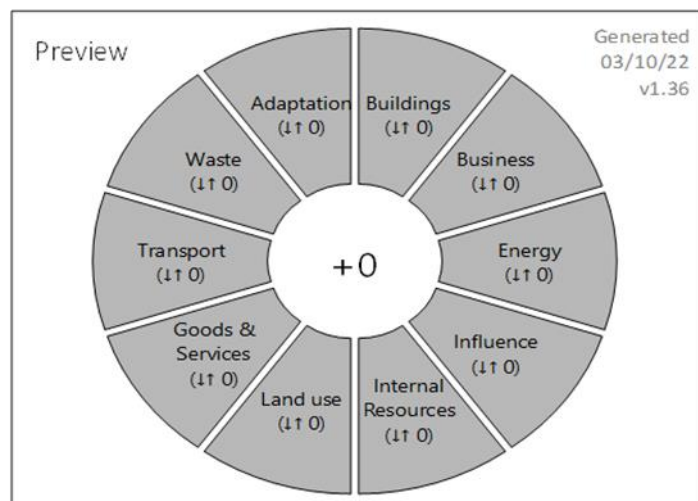
**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:**

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 is 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 2024.

## **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 2024, the report is available as Appendix 1.

The report 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 Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24. 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