



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Audit & Governance Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Combined Assurance Status Report 2023/24
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To present to the Committee the Council's Combined Assurance Status Report 23/24
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	No
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	None
<b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>	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.

<b>CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT</b>
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A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.
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<b>REPORT APPROVAL</b>
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Report author:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer
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Signed off by:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer
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Approved for publication:	Senior Leadership Team
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