



Report To:	Audit & Governance Committee
Date:	29 th June 2026
Subject:	Combined Assurance Status Report 2025/26
Purpose:	To review the Combined Assurance Status Report 2025/26
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	N/A
Report Of:	Senior Leadership Team
Report Author:	John Medler, Service Director - Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Ward(s) Affected:	None
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

The Combined Assurance Status Report provides a record of assurance against the Council's critical services and key projects. It supports the Council's commitment to achieving good corporate governance.

Recommendations

That the Committee reviews the Combined Assurance Status Report 2025/26 (attached at **Appendix 1**) 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 1**) is to produce a record of assurance against the Council's critical services and key 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 2025/26.
- 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 report confirms that all key areas have been subject to assurance procedures. Overall, there continues to be a good level of assurance across the authority.
- 3.2. The findings are used to focus on areas of improvement, and they have helped to inform the Internal Audit workplan 2026/27 and the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Effective governance arrangements support the work of the Partnership.

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 Wellbeing

None.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None.

Acronyms

None.

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix 1 Combined Assurance Status Report 2025/26

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Report Approval

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Approved for publication: Senior Leadership Team