



**Report To:** Governance and Audit Committee

**Date:** 2 July 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**

Report author:	John Medler, Service Director – Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Signed off by:	John Medler, Service Director – Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Approved for publication:	Senior Leadership Team