



Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham – (Executive Director of Resources)

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	12 July 2021
Subject:	Information Assurance Annual Report 2020/21

Summary:

The Information Assurance (IA) annual report summarises key activity undertaken by the IA team during 2020/21.

It focuses on the following 3 core domains: data protection; records management; and information security.

Its purpose is to provide assurance to the Audit Committee that the IA function is effective and is delivering a service appropriate to the needs of the council.

Recommendation(s):

Items to note:

1. Information Assurance activity for 2020/21.
2. Key activity demonstrating that the Information Assurance function remains effective and relevant to the council's needs.

Background

IA is the mechanism by which the council seeks to ensure information, in all its forms, is subject to effective corporate governance and control throughout its lifecycle, from creation through to destruction.

It also assists the council in understanding information risk by aligning with the legal and regulatory environment within which it operates and by using information in a way which is lawful, fair, secure, and transparent.

The IA annual report provides evidence of wide-ranging activity which is delivering the aims of good IA. It supports more regular, detailed reporting, to the council's Senior Information Risk Owner.

Conclusion

The content of the IA annual report reflects what has been a very busy year and one that has presented some unique challenges, both to the IA team and the wider council. However this has not prevented ongoing positive engagement with all Directorates and continued improvement and development of the IA service.

The annual report can be used to conclude that IA:

- Reacted positively to the challenges presented by COVID-19 by supporting colleagues to deliver services in a rapidly changing environment.
- Maintained a consistent level of service throughout the pandemic.
- Continued to identify and mitigate information risk across all IA domains, which in turn helped reduce corporate risk.
- Supported technical colleagues, in IMT and Serco, to improve the council's cyber security posture, while also improving the organisational response.
- Reacted both proactively and reactively to the needs of the council by ensuring support was provided to those that needed it.
- Adopted a pragmatic approach which at its heart was about helping service areas deliver effective services.
- Further developed the service through continual improvement and increased visibility of the information we process.

The report should give confidence to the Audit Committee that the IA service continues to add value and the direction of travel is one which remains positive.

Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Information Assurance Annual report 2020/21

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by David Ingham, who can be contacted on 07876148551 or david.ingham@lincolnshire.gov.uk.