Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	**Audit Committee**
Date:	**13 June 2022**
Subject:	**Information Assurance Annual Report 2021/22**

Summary:

The Information Assurance (IA) annual report summarises key activity undertaken by the IA team during 2021/22.

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

Its purpose is to demonstrate that there is a corporate framework in place which delivers assurance activity designed to identify, manage, and mitigate information risk, and which supports the delivery of effective council services.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee note:

1. Information Assurance activity for 2021/22.

2. Key activity demonstrating that the IA function remains effective and is 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 assists the council in understanding and managing information risk by aligning with the legal and regulatory environment within which it operates; by using information in a way which is lawful, fair, secure, and transparent; and by identifying and responding to internal and external threats.

The IA annual report provides evidence of wide-ranging activity which is delivering the aims of good IA.

Conclusion

The content of the IA annual report can be used to conclude that:

- A focus on improving the service has led to a record number of requests for IA support from across every level of the council.

- High levels of engagement have meant that the IA service has continued to support service areas to identify and mitigate information risk. This in turn has helped to reduce overall corporate risk.

- The IA service continued to receive support from Senior Management, and remained highly visible, demonstrating a positive IA culture within the organisation.

- The primary risk remained the threat from cyber-attacks. The nature and continued growth of cyber-attacks meant that ongoing support to technical colleagues, and ensuring a fit for purpose organisational response, remained central to IA activity throughout the year.

- The IA service continued to advise, assist, and inform across every level of the council, delivering pragmatic and meaningful support which in turn helped in the delivery of effective council services.

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 2021/22

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 07876 148551 or david.ingham@lincolnshire.gov.uk.