

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Audit, Risk and Scrutiny
DATE	26 September 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Information Governance Management Annual Statement 2023-2024
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/24/253
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Martin Murchie
REPORT AUTHOR	Caroline Anderson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee with an annual report on the Council's Information Governance Performance, including information about the changes implemented through the Council's information assurance improvement plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

Note the information provided about the Council's information governance performance at sections 3.1 – 3.5 and in the Information Governance Report at Appendix 1.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Council's Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee agreed the Council's revised and updated Information Governance Management & Reporting Framework in September 2016; as part of this the Committee agreed to receive an annual report in relation to the Council's information governance performance.
- 3.2 Ensuring the proper use and governance of the Council's information and data is an ongoing activity. New and changing legislation, systems, staff, and ways of doing business, as well as new and emerging cyber threats all shape and change the environment within which the Council operates in relation to effective use and governance of its information and data.
- 3.3 Keeping up means a careful balancing between the requirement to monitor and be adaptable to our changing environment, and the requirement to agree and implement assurance improvements over the medium term.

- 3.4 To this end, actions to improve assurance in the medium term are identified, actioned and monitored through the Information Governance risks on the Cluster Risk Register and the Cyber Security risks on the Corporate Risk Register; regular updates on which are reported separately to the Council's Communities, Housing and Public Protection and Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.5 Please refer to Appendix 1 for the consolidated Annual Report on the Council's Information Governance Performance from April 2023-March 2024.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. There are potential indirect financial implications related to penalties for non-compliance, as outlined at section 5.3, below.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council's use and governance of its information is subject to a variety of legislation including: The UK General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018, the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, and the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015.
- 5.2 The Annual Information Governance Performance Report at Appendix 1 forms part of the Council's wider Information Governance Management and Reporting Framework and is a key component of ensuring that the Council is undertaking adequate monitoring of its compliance with the above legislation.
- 5.3 The General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 came into force on 25 May 2018 and brought significantly increased penalties for non-compliance with data protection law than was previously the case. The maximum penalty for non-compliance is now 4% of turnover, or €20 million, whichever is higher.
- 5.4 The approach taken to date has been focussed on ensuring that the Council has a robust framework in place to enable compliance with Data Protection legislation, to reduce the risk that the Council would be subject to enforcement action and financial penalty.
- 5.5 The UK has now left the EU, and so applicable Data Protection legislation in the UK is now the UK GDPR, and the Data Protection Act 2018. The UK has now received an 'Adequacy Decision' from the EU in respect of its data protection arrangements, which simplifies the arrangements in relation to data flows between the UK and the EU, now that the transition period has ended.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Strategic Risk	There are no risks arising directly from the presentation of this report. This report is part of the Council's wider Information Assurance framework which mitigates against information related risk as presented in the Corporate Risk Register	See controls column	Yes
Compliance	Compliance	As above	As above	Not applicable
Operational	Operational	As above	As above	Not applicable
Financial	Financial	As above	As above	Not applicable
Reputational	Reputational	As above	As above	Not applicable
Environment / Climate	Environment/Climate	As above	As above	Not applicable

8. OUTCOMES

Council Delivery Plan 2024	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	Impact of Report The Council's Information Governance arrangements are a vital part of enabling the Council to realise its aims across its policy statement.

Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	Information and data are key assets of the Council and recognised in the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 and the Aberdeen City Council Strategic Business Plan as critical enablers of the Council achieving its priorities for people, place and economy. The activities outlined in Appendix 1 of this report framework are focussed on ensuring that the Council's information is good quality, accurate, and up to date to inform decision-making, that it is used and governed in a way which is effective and lawful, that the Council has the right arrangements in place to enable data to be shared appropriately and safely with partners, where this is necessary, and to ensure that our information can effectively evidence our decisions and actions so the Council can demonstrate accountability.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	As above
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	As above
Regional and City Strategies	The Council's Information Governance arrangements are vital to the implementation of regional and city strategies.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	Not required.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Annual Information Governance Annual Statement 2023-2024

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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