

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Annual Report 2022/23</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Audit Committee on 19 July 2023
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Assurance on the Council's arrangements and performance on information governance.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Members are recommended to discuss and note the content of the 2022/23 SIRO Annual Report attached as Appendix 1.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report provides Audit Committee Members with an update relating to the responsibilities of the Wokingham Borough Council Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) and outlines activity and performance related to information governance for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The report provides assurances that information risks have been effectively managed and where improvements have been implemented.

The Council continues to be committed to effective information governance, with robust arrangements in place to ensure the council complies with legislation and adopts best practice. Governance arrangements are closely monitored to ensure systems, policies and procedures are fit for purpose, accommodate new working procedures and that all staff and elected members understand the importance of information governance and security so that good practice is everyone's business and embedded as part of the Council's culture.

ICT security and cyber risks continue to present an increasing global, national and local challenge to all organisations and the Council is no different. Arrangements to manage these risks are contained in the report with a summary included to list action already undertaken to maintain and strengthen defences and enhance corporate resilience.

Throughout the year, data protection and information governance has remained high profile with the Data & Information Governance Board meeting monthly to manage risks and drive performance improvements wherever possible. The SIRO Annual Report outlines these areas of performance in detail, showing trends against previous years and provides assurance of arrangements in place.

## Background

The Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Annual Report reflects the Council's information governance work undertaken in 2022/23, and provides assurance that personal data is held securely; information is disseminated effectively and provides an overview of key performance indicators relating to the Council's processing of information requests within the necessary legal frameworks.

## Analysis of Issues

The detailed annual report is included as an Appendix.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	Revenue

#### **Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

Whilst there are no direct financial implications associated with this report, the effective management of information risks mitigates against unplanned expenditure (e.g. fines, recovery of information etc).

#### **Cross-Council Implications**

The effective management of information risks affects all aspects of service delivery.

#### **Public Sector Equality Duty**

The Equality Act 2010 places a statutory duty on the council to ensure that when considering any new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure the impacts on particular groups, including those within the workforce and customer/public groups, have been considered. This report is a non-decision-making report providing an update on information risk management.

***Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030***

This report has a positive impact on the climate emergency agenda, as it provides public assurance about the Council's framework and activities to manage information risk.

**Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**

Not applicable

**List of Background Papers**

None

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