1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an update relating to the responsibilities of the Cumbria County Council Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) and outlines activity and performance related to information governance. It provides assurance that information risks are being effectively managed; what is going well; and where improvements are required.

1.2 Whilst previously presented as two separate reports (Information Governance Annual Report and SIRO Annual Report) they have now been combined to provide a single report which outlines the new and emerging information governance considerations.

1.3 ICT security and cyber risks present an increasing 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 actions already undertaken and further activity planned to maintain and strengthen defences and enhance corporate resilience.

1.4 Performance in relation to information requests processed under for example Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation is also summarised in the report and whilst the Council has made performance improvements over the previous year, this will continue to be an area of focus as additional improvement is required during 2017/18.
2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The Council Plan for 2016-19 contains a priority to be a modern and efficient council. The Annual Report (attached at Appendix 1) contains an action plan showing our priorities in relation to information governance for 2017/18. This plan incorporates actions to ensure the Council continues to develop its staff and their understanding of the threats to the organisation’s data as well as providing confidence in staff to apply security risk management principles proportionately to changing business demands, policies and procedures.

2.2 The work of the Information Governance Team is compliant with the Council’s equality strategy with reasonable steps taken when appropriate to ensure that users with specific communication needs related to disability or language can access information on an equal basis.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Members are asked to note the content of the Annual Report for 2016/17 in Appendix 1.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Annual report reflects the Council’s information governance work undertaken during 2016-17, 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.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Annual Report shows progress has been made in 2016-17 with key actions taken to strengthen the Council’s approach to effectively manage information risks and ensure a robust approach to information governance.

5.2 As the potential for cyber risk increases, it is essential the Council takes action to understand and mitigate risk in this area; as well as ensuring it complies with changing legislation and requirements such as the General Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) which comes into force on the 25th May 2018.

Dawn Roberts
Corporate Director Resources and Transformation

12th September 2017
APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Annual report

IMPLICATIONS

Staffing: none
Financial: none
Property: none
Electoral Division(s): none

Executive Decision

Key Decision

If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

No previous relevant decisions

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

Contact: Steve Tweedie, 07500 027215, steve.tweedie@cumbria.gov.uk