AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

October 2026

REPORT TITLE:	**SENIOR INFORMATION RISK OWNER (SIRO) ANNUAL REPORT**
REPORT OF:	**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents the annual Senior Information Risk Owners (SIRO) report. This type of report is seen nationally as good practice to inform Members of information governance challenges and to satisfy regulatory requirements.

It ensures continued compliance with the current information management legislation and regulations. These include The Data Protection Act 2018, The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. It also details information in relation to Cyber Security; Risk and Assurance and Security Breach Management.

The Senior Information Risk Owners Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1.

The report supports the draft Wirral Plan 2027-31: A New Chapter for Wirral, specifically the aim to provide reliable everyday services.

This report is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Audit and Risk Management Committee is recommended to note the Annual Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

1.1 To provide Members with assurance that the Information Governance Team (IGT) is taking appropriate measures to comply with statutory requirements of Information Management Legislation.

1.2 To provide assurance to Members that all security incidents are reported, recorded, reviewed and acted upon, with reference to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) as required.

1.3 To further provide assurance to Members that information governance is recognised as a critical factor within the Council and discussed at the highest level.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 The report is submitted as part of the annual cycle of reports. No other options were considered appropriate for the production of the annual report.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 In 2020 the Information Governance Board agreed to the production of a SIRO report or briefing note every 12 months. The report is designed to give assurance to Members that the Council's Information Governance responsibilities are being met.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The report discusses the work of the statutory role of the DPO and the SIRO and the expectations placed upon them.

5.2 The UK GDPR introduced a duty to appoint a Data Protection Officer if you are a public body and the Government Cabinet Office advises good practice is to appoint a SIRO if you are a public body.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from the report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Appropriate actions are not taken by officers and Members in response to the identification of risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives.

7.2 Potential failure of the Council to comply with the mandatory requirements of current Information Management Legislation can result in monetary fines and reputational damage.

7.3 Potential failure of the Audit and Risk Management Committee to comply

with best professional practice and thereby not function in an efficient and effective manner.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 There has been no requirement for consultation in preparation of this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, does not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

9.2 There are no direct equality implications arising from the report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct environment, biodiversity or climate implications arising from the report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct community wealth implications arising from the report.

12.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATONS

12.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - SIRO Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Data Protection Policy
Freedom of Information Policy
Information Governance Policy
Records Retention and Destruction Policy

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Audit and Risk Management Committee in accordance with Section C of its Terms of Reference, Risk Management and Control.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Annual Report	4 November 2025

Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Annual Report (Update)	25 March 2025
Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) Annual Report	22 October 2024