

# Risk Management



**Report to:** Audit and Standards Committee

**Date:** 26 February 2025

**Lead Officer:** Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Assistant Director – Finance and Section 151 Officer (01279) 446251

**Contributing Officer:** Stuart Moseley, Insurance and Risk Manager (01279) 446215

## Executive Summary

- A** This report provides the committee with the updated strategic risk register. Strategic risks that may affect both financing and performance of council operations are also provided as context to understanding the complete picture as to how the council is performing against its priorities as laid out in the Corporate Plan.

## Recommended that:

- A** The committee notes the current strategic risk register for the council's operations included in Appendix A.

## Reason for decision

- A** To ensure the council understands the strategic risks that affect the organisation, and control measures in place to mitigate those risks.

## Other Options

- A** The report is for noting. Risk supports the Committee's role to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management with the council within its terms of reference.

## Background

1. The Audit and Standards Committee's terms of reference includes the responsibility to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management within the Council.
2. Understanding risk is part of the council's approach to problem solving and achieving best value through taking calculated and controlled risks to achieve the council's priorities and improve the services that residents receive.

## Issues/Proposals

### Strategic Risk Update January 2025

3. The council's strategic risk register has been reviewed alongside the Corporate Plan and reflects current controls in place to mitigate the impact of risks to the work of the council and keep these at acceptable levels whilst making the most of opportunities to achieve priorities within the Corporate Plan.
4. The strategic risk register is reported to every Cabinet meeting, as part of the performance, finance and risk report. Cabinet has overall accountabilities for all risks across the council and it is essential they have regular oversight of the council strategic risk register. Cabinet noted the current risk register on 13 February 2025.
5. In accordance with the councils Risk Management Strategy, risk owners have reviewed the strategic risks and updated them accordingly. As a result of the current risk review two scores have decreased. The remaining scores have remained unchanged.
6. A dashboard of the current status of strategic risks and the strategic risk register can be found at Appendix A and details risk scores derived from the likelihood of a risk occurring, and the impact if it does, alongside the current controls in place. The register also includes the direction of travel since the risk scores were last reported.
7. The highest scoring risks remain those around financial resilience, contract and partnership management, climate change and adequate housing due to the high impact they carry. Control measures in place mitigate the likelihood of these impacts as far as possible and are reviewed regularly.
8. The risk where the score has decreased are as follows.
  - a) SR13 – Resource Capacity - If the council does not have the appropriate resources to match the delivery requirements, it can not deliver its priorities – L3xI4 = 12 (High). The score has decreased due to the recent recruitment of the new Executive Management Team.

- b) SR1 – Adequate Housing - If there is not sufficient and adequate Housing provided, the town will not be able to fulfil housing needs. – L3xL4 = 12 (High). The score has decreased due to the positive ongoing discussions with the Housing regulator and the councils progress.
9. The current risk rating matrix from the Risk Management Strategy, to show how risk scores are determined is included in Appendix B for information.
10. Operational Risk Registers using the same format is being embedded across the council, and will be implemented at the start of the municipal year.

## **Implications**

### **Equalities and Diversity**

Risk register does not have an impact on the council equality duties.

### **Climate Change**

This report has no direct impact on climate change.

### **Finance**

None arising specifically from this report, but some risks include financial risks and some control measures identified in the risk register could have financial implications.

Author: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Assistant Director – Finance and Section 151 Officer

### **Governance**

Effective risk management provides a means of identifying, managing and reducing the likelihood of legal claims or regulatory challenges against the Council.

Author: Julie Galvin, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Risk Dashboard and Strategic Risk register

Appendix B – Current Risk Rating Matrix

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

None