

Report to: Audit and Standards Committee

Date: 17th March 2020

Title: Strategic Risk Register quarterly review

Report of: Chief Internal Auditor

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: To report to Committee the outcomes of the quarterly review of the register by the Corporate Management Team.

Officer recommendation(s): To receive and note the update to the Strategic Risk Register.

Reasons for recommendations: The Council is committed to proper risk management and to regularly updating the committee with regard to the Strategic Risk Register.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Strategic Risk Register is a high level document that records the key risks facing the council: those risks that would prevent the authority from achieving its overall strategies and objectives.
- 1.2 Maintaining the Strategic Risk Register is a vital part of the governance arrangements of the authority and, as such, it is overseen by the Corporate Management Team who review it on a quarterly basis.
- 1.3 The risk register shows the risk, a description of the risk, the risk score if no action is taken (original risk score), the internal controls put in place to mitigate the risk and the risk score after these controls are in place (current risk score).
- 1.4 The risk register is brought to the committee when any changes have been made to it following review by the Corporate Management Team.

2 February 2020 review

- 2.1 The Strategic Risk Register was taken to Corporate Management Team on the 11th February 2020 for the latest quarterly review.

2.2 SR_002 (changes to the economic environment) and SR_007 (civil contingency) risk scores were increased owing to the concerns around a No Deal Brexit. Whilst the withdrawal from the European Union has now occurred the full implications are not yet fully understood and so it has been agreed to leave the score at the higher level until more is understood. The reference to “Brexit” has also been altered.

2.3 SR_007 has also had the description updated to include a reference to the council being impacted by a viral pandemic. This has been added because of the spread of Covid-19 (coronavirus). It is felt that the mitigating actions listed do not require amending and that the risk level should currently remain the same. However, this will be reviewed if the Covid-19 virus becomes pandemic.

3 Financial appraisal

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4 Legal implications

4.1 This report demonstrates compliance with regulation 3 of The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which requires the Council to operate a sound system of internal control, including effective arrangements for the management of risk.

Lawyer consulted 18.02.20

Legal ref: 008895-LDC-OD

5 Risk management implications

5.1 If the Council does not have an effective risk management framework that is subject to proper oversight by Councillors it will not be able to demonstrate that it has in place adequate means to safeguard Council assets and services, and it could be subject to criticism from the Council’s external auditor or the public.

6 Equality analysis

6.1 An equalities impact assessment is not considered necessary because the report is for information only and involves no key decisions.

7 Appendices

Appendix A - Strategic Risk Register

8 Background papers

None