

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date:	8th March 2021
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 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 January 2021 Review

- 2.1 The Strategic Risk Register was taken to Corporate Management Team on 27th January 2021 for the quarterly review.
- 2.2 It was agreed that the internal controls/mitigating actions taken to address some of the issues likely to occur around Newhaven Harbour, owing to Brexit, have

been effective. For this reason it was agreed to reduce the risk scores for risks SR_022 (council economically less stable) and SR_023 (changes in demands and expectations) should be reduced from a likelihood score of 5 to a 4.

- 2.3 The Corporate Management Team also discussed that there was no mention currently in the risk register concerning the financial impact of Covid-19 on the council. The following has therefore been added to SR_022 “Changes to the economic environment makes the council economically less stable”:

Description added:

5. Covid 19 has had a significant impact on the Council's finances.

Internal Control added:

Reduces Likelihood

5. The council is currently in ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government around financial support to cover costs related to expenditure on responses to the Covid pandemic.

- 2.4 The changes can be seen on the attached Strategic Risk Register.

3 Financial appraisal

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4 Legal implications

- 4.1 This report is for noting only and therefore the Legal Services team has not been consulted on the content of it.

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

- 7.1 Appendix A - Strategic Risk Register

8 Background papers

- 8.1 None.