

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date:	26 July 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 June 2021 Review

- 2.1 The Strategic Risk Register was taken to Corporate Management Team on 23rd June 2021 for the quarterly review.

2.2 The Corporate Management Team also discussed the current risks and agreed the following:

- as the Covid-19 pandemic has progressed it is felt that heightened risks have been handled or addressed and therefore risk levels could revert back to pre-Covid levels.
- the exception to the above is risk SR_002 “Changes to the economic environment makes the council economically less stable”. It was agreed that this risk level should remain high.
- SR_008 “Failure to meet regulatory or legal requirements”. Internal control number 4 – the wording has been updated to reflect the current position.

2.3 The Head of Legal Services was contacted to enquire whether risk SR_011 was still required. This risk was “Judicial challenge of decision-making is heightened as a consequence of increased reliance on use of officer delegated powers. This risk was added as a result of committee meetings going on-line only during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Head of Legal Services agreed that with face-to-face meetings re-commencing, this risk is no longer relevant. The risk has therefore been removed from the register.

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

None.