

## STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Audit Committee - 23 September 2021

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance and Trading

**Status:** For Consideration

**Also considered by:** None

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive Summary:** This report presents the most recent version of the Strategic Risk Register for consideration by Audit Committee.

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Matthew Dickins

**Contact Officer:** Francesca Chivers, Ext. 7053

**Recommendation to Audit Committee:**

To consider and note the contents of the Strategic Risk Register

**Reason for recommendation:** The Audit Committee, through its Terms of Reference, has responsibility for maintaining an overview of risk management development and operations. Regular oversight of the Strategic Risk Register is an important part of discharging this responsibility.

### Introduction and Background

- 1 Audit Committee is required, through its Terms of Reference, to maintain oversight of risk management arrangements and operations. As such, it receives periodic updates on risk management, including the Strategic Risk Register.
- 2 The Strategic Risk Register was last presented to Audit Committee in November 2020. Since then, it has been updated quarterly through individual meetings with risk owners and collective discussions at Strategic Management (SMT). The most recent update (June 2021) is presented at Appendix A.
- 3 Over the past year, updates to the Corporate Risk Register have captured more data to enable a more informed assessment of the management of risk. The additional information includes:
  - a. A 'target' score for each risk. These targets have been discussed and agreed by SMT as being appropriate for the risk. Their inclusion is intended to indicate whether risks are currently being managed to

the desired level. Actions should be in place for risks that are not currently within target.

- b. A separate 'actions' section for each risk that provides a ready overview of progress against any actions in place to further reduce the risk.
  - c. A section on the assurances available for each risk. A key part of risk management is to understand how effectively risks are managed and whether controls are working as intended. The assurance section details the mechanisms currently in place to assess this. These sections are, however, a work in progress and further discussions will be held with risk owners as part of the September updates.
- 4 The table on Pages 2 and 3 of Appendix A gives an overview of changes made to the Strategic Risk Register since September 2020. Members will note that two new risks have been added (SR14 - Capital Projects and SR15 - Net Zero) and that no risks have been removed.
- 5 In terms of risk scores, two risk scores (SR01 - Finance and SR03 - Asset management and maintenance) have decreased since September 2020 and consequently, there are currently no 'High' scoring risks on the register. Four risks scores (SR05 - Technology, SR06 - Information and Data Management, SR10 - Emergency Planning and Severe Weather Events and SR13 - Temporary Accommodation) have increased since September. In all cases except Temporary Accommodation, this was due to perception of the risk changing as a result of assurance work rather than the risks changing in themselves.
- 6 Seven risks are currently above the target score and actions are in place to reduce the current score accordingly.

### **Risk Management Framework**

- 7 The current overall risk management framework does require updating to ensure that it fully reflects the needs of the Council. In particular, a robust risk management process at service level is required. A new risk management framework has been drafted and will be presented to Strategic Management Team in September 2021 for discussion and amends. It will be presented to Audit Committee in January 2022 for approval.

### **Other options Considered and/or rejected**

None

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report, however financial risk is considered as part of the Strategic Risk Register.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

The Strategic Risk Register is the core mechanism used by the Council to identify, assess and monitor key risks. There are no direct legal implications associated with this report, however compliance risk is considered as part of the Strategic Risk Register.

### Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

### **Conclusions**

Since the last update to Audit Committee in November 2020, there have been several changes to the Strategic Risk Register. As part of its governance and oversight role regarding the Council's risk management, Audit Committee is asked to review and consider the updated Strategic Risk Register.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Strategic Risk Register

#### **Background Papers**

None

**Adrian Rowbotham**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance and Trading**