

## **REPORT TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting: 10 MARCH 2021**

**Report of: Chief Executive & Growth Director**

**Title: Corporate Risk Register**

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

### **Is this an Executive or council function?**

Risk management is a council function.

Risk Management is an important element of the council's Code of Corporate Governance. Regular monitoring of the council's corporate risks helps to ensure that the council's business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

#### **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1 The report advises the committee of the council's risk management progress and presents the updated Corporate Risk Register (Appendix A).

#### **2. Recommendations:**

- 2.1 That the committee reviews and notes Corporate Risk Register

#### **3. Reasons for the recommendation:**

- 3.1 To comply with the council's Risk Management Policy which states that this committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the Council's risks and reporting all new and updated risks to the Chief Executive and Growth Director.

#### **4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources.**

- 4.1 Directors and Senior Managers, as appropriate, are asked to update the Corporate Risk Register on a quarterly basis. The register is reviewed regularly by the Chief Executive and Growth Director, the Strategic Management Board and the Health and Safety Board. This process is currently facilitated by Internal Audit.

#### **5. Section 151 Officer comments:**

- 5.1 The key financial risks facing the Council are addressed in this report. Members should note the mitigations in place and review their effectiveness.

#### **6. What are the legal aspects?**

- 6.1 None identified.

#### **7. Monitoring Officer's comments:**

- 7.1 This report is essential because it highlights the key strategic risks facing the council, the controls in place to respond to those risks and any further action required to effectively manage those risks. It identifies those risks that could materially threaten the business, future performance or prospects, solvency or reputation, or which could prevent delivery of our strategic objectives.

## **8. Report details:**

- 8.1 The Corporate Risk Register (Appendix A) has been reviewed and updated by members of SMB as follows:
- 8.2 Counter Terrorism and Community Cohesion and safety (*risk ref 2*)  
This risk has been managed to low risk and will now be removed from the corporate risk register and monitored at service level.
- 8.3 Delivery of Sport England Local Delivery Pilot Outcomes (*risk ref 3*)  
This risk has been managed to low risk and will now be removed from the corporate risk register and monitored at service level.
- 8.4 Lack of proactive and preventative investment and maintenance of assets (*risk ref 4*)  
This risk has been managed to low risk and will now be removed from the corporate risk register and monitored at service level.
- 8.5 Information Governance failure (incl. Council experiencing a Cyber-attack) (*risk ref 5*)  
This risk has been managed to low risk and will now be removed from the corporate risk register and monitored at service level.  
Strata have confirmed they have appropriate protections in place relevant to the type of organisation and data held. These risks are continually monitored by Strata.
- 8.6 Lack of leadership capacity to effectively deliver additional Council objectives and priorities (*risk ref 7*)  
The ownership of this risk has been moved to the Council's Executive
- 8.7 Inability to deliver carbon neutral aspirations for Exeter by 2030 (*risk ref 8*)  
This risk has increased from medium to high. Funding for ECF finishes at the end of this financial year.  
Devon County Council has published its draft net zero carbon plan and it is explicit that Net Zero cannot be achieved by 2030, rather it aims for a 50% reduction by 2030, and net zero by 2050. This is a fair reflection of the technical and financial challenges ahead. A 50% reduction in greenhouse gasses would be an incredible achievement by 2030.  
Members may wish to reflect upon this in responding to this particular risk.
- 8.8 Inability to manage and respond to COVID-19 pandemic (*risk ref 13*)  
This risk has changed from high to low. This risk has, and is, being managed effectively within the Council, however, the focus must now move to recovery.
- 8.9 The two risks that remain high risks are:
- Maintaining the financial stability of the Council (*risk ref 11*)
  - Increased cost of St Sidwell's Point and Bus & Coach Station (*risk ref 14*)
- 8.2 An update on each risk can be found in the notes column of the Corporate Risk Register (Appendix A)

## **9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?**

- 9.1 This decision helps to ensure the delivery of the council's purpose 'Well Run Council'.

## **10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

- 10.1 Any risks should be captured in either this document or the operational risk register.

## **11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)**

- 11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
  - advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs;
  - and foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.
- 11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.
- 11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because:

11.4.1 The report does not set policy.

## **12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

12.1 Not applicable

## **13. Are there any other options?**

13.1 Not applicable.

## **Chief Executive and Growth Director**

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**

**Background papers used in compiling this report:-**

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