

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 27 June 2023

REPORT TO AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 26 July 2023

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 18 July 2023

Report of: Director Finance

Title: Review of the Corporate Risk Register

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report advises the committee of the council's progress in delivering a new, updated Corporate Risk Register, linked to the Council's Strategic Priorities.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That the Executive and Council note the progress made in producing the new Corporate Risk Register.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 To ensure that the risks associated with meeting the Council's strategic priorities are properly considered, managed and monitored.

3.2 Risk Management is an important element of the council's Code of Corporate Governance.

3.3 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.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources

4.1 The Executive, Directors, and Senior Managers, as appropriate, are asked to review the Corporate Risk Register on a quarterly basis. The Strategic Management Board reviews the register quarterly.

4.2 Any actions agreed to mitigate the risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register may result in some resource implication. These would be subject to a specific report and the resource implications would be considered in that report.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

SMB and the Executive have produced a draft of the new register based on the Council's Corporate Priorities. A new summary page has been added setting out the level of intervention required and the impact of failing to address the risk.

6. What are the legal aspects?

Risk Management is an essential management tool in order to manage, assess and prioritise risks. Members will note the content of this report and the attached updated Corporate Risk register, which identifies risk to the Council.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

Whilst there is no specific regulatory requirement to keep a risk register, it is an accepted tool which helps to identify potential risks in a project or an organisation. Put simply, it is an aid to identifying a range of issues that might or could derail intended outcomes.

8. Report details:

8.1 In light of a review of the council's approach to risk management, the Corporate Risk Register is being revised following a workshop facilitated by the Council's insurers, Zurich. The workshop involved both members of SMB and members of the Executive to enable a complete analysis of the risks to be made and agreement on what the register would cover to be agreed. The key changes to the Register are to focus on the Council's Corporate priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan, along with a risk for each of the four pillars of the Council that underpin delivery Finance, Property and infrastructure, People and Digital. Each of the risks will have a risk owner at both Executive and Officer Level.

8.2 The Risk Register will include a new summary page, which will enable Members to see the scope of the corporate risks in one straightforward table.

8.3 Alongside each risk on the summary page, there is a table, which sets out an assessment of the resources required to manage the risks under the themes of Time, Financial, People and Assets. This will allow for an assessment of the resources required to mitigate each risk to an acceptable level allowing members to determine if the resources required are deliverable and achievable.

8.4 In addition, the summary page will include an assessment of how the risks will affect a range of drivers. The drivers are set out below and look at the impact of failing to deliver the corporate priorities and failure in each of the four pillars.

Political	Financial	Reputational	Regulatory	Legal	Compliance	Community
-----------	-----------	--------------	------------	-------	------------	-----------

8.5 The two tables above use Very high, High, Medium, Low and Very Low to assess the resources required and the risk drivers.

8.6 The Final Column will assess the Council's risk appetite, whether it is open to risk, more cautious or even risk averse.

8.7 The Corporate Risk Register will be presented to the Executive on a quarterly basis, ensuring that decision can be taken where action is needed. Audit & Governance will continue to have a role in ensuring that there is a proper process in place to adequately manage the risks.

8.8 Whilst the new register has been drafted, there is a need for each Officer risk owner to consult with the relevant Portfolio Holder to refine the risks and ensure that the register is complete. This work will take place over the summer and the new risk register will be presented to the Executive in September.

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

9.1 Good governance contributes to the Council's purpose of a "Well Run Council".

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

N/A

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 is for information only; and

11.4.2 Actions to mitigate the risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register may result in some future impact, however, any actions proposed would be subject to a specific report and the impacts would be considered in that report.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

12.1.2 Actions to mitigate the risks identified in the Corporate Risk Register may result in some future impact, however, any actions proposed would be subject to a specific report and the impacts would be considered in that report.

13. Are there any other options?

N/A

Director Finance, Dave Hodgson

Author: Director Finance, Dave Hodgson

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

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquires:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 4.36
01392 265275