

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

**Date of Meeting: 28 JULY 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 Members should note the risks and amended risk scores. Monitoring will take place throughout the year, to assess whether conditions have changed and that the risk level remains appropriate.

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

- 6.1 None identified.

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

- 7.1 The Corporate Risk Register provides key management and Members with significant information on the main risks faced by the organisation. It is important that Members scrutinise it carefully.

## **8. Report details:**

8.1 The Corporate Risk Register (Appendix A) has been reviewed and updated by members of SMB as follows:

8.2 Lack of leadership capacity to effectively deliver additional Council objectives and priorities (*risk ref 3*)

This risk has changed to low risk. Since the last review confidence has increased that the medium term financial plan is being addressed which has led to the likelihood of this risk occurring being significantly reduced, leading to a reduction in the risk score. This risk will now be managed at an operational level.

8.3 Inability to deliver carbon neutral operations for Exeter City Council by 2022 (*risk ref 8*)

This risk has changed to high risk. The last 18 months has been an extraordinary period for all of us, and Covid has had an impact on activities, strategic capacity has been diverted, organisational focus has necessarily been directed to the crisis and recovery, income has come under threat and emergency budget has required in year changes. Leisure services have been brought back in house and officers have been busy working on a broader campaign in support of net zero.

This particular risk focuses on the council's own footprint and the target date is earlier than the net zero 2030 date, itself challenging. The target was set when the council was pursuing a low carbon agenda. The Net Zero commitment in advance of a road map and clarity on resources effectively has spread strategic capacity. It is unlikely that the city council can achieve the goal within the next 12 months. The additional capacity that will be released by Council will support a more focused programme based on the council's carbon footprint and it is suggested that work is done on defining the plan and target date when officers are in post.

8.4 There are four risks that are high risks:

- Inability to deliver carbon neutral aspirations for Exeter by 2030 (*risk ref 4*)
- Maintaining the financial stability of the Council (*risk ref 7*)
- Inability to deliver carbon neutral operations for Exeter City Council by 2022 (*risk ref 8*)
- Increased cost of St Sidwell's Point and Bus & Coach Station (*risk ref 9*)

8.5 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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