

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Cabinet are asked to recommend Council adopt the Strategic Risk Register.

2. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- 2.1 The Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1), now included within this report contains the significant risks, as identified by senior and executive council officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holders, in the Council achieving the priorities set out in the 'Community Matters Corporate Plan 2020-24'.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Risk management aims to identify the risks that may impact on the Council achieving its objectives. Its purpose is to evaluate, design and implement effective measures to reduce both the likelihood and potential impact of these risks occurring.
- 3.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to have in place arrangements for managing risks under the Accounts and Audit Regulations; which require a sound system of internal control, facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk. As such it features strongly in the Council's Local Code of Practice for Corporate Governance and is one of the primary assurance strands in the Annual Governance Statement, which places significant reliance on a robust risk management framework.

4. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

- 4.1 The Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1) captures the most significant cross cutting risks to the delivery of the current Corporate Plan and the proposed actions to mitigate these risks.
- 4.2 These risks have been identified with senior and executive council officers working alongside the Portfolio Holders to ensure a joined-up approach in capturing and documenting these risks.
- 4.3 The strategic risk register encompasses a total of eight risks of significance, including one further addition incorporated since the last update. The revised register, which can be found in the appendix 1, outlines a detailed narrative of the actions necessary to manage residual risk adequately. Importantly, while some actions are ongoing, others have specific endpoints.

5. AUDIT COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 5.1 At its meeting on 31 July 2023, the Audit Committee reviewed and noted the Strategic Risk Register, as part of its six-monthly review process and commented on Strategic Risk 5 and 7.

- 5.2 Strategic Risk 5; 'Ensuring robust security measures to protect the Council's digital data and ICT assets from external threats', the Committee raised general queries relating to arrangements for overall network security and the data centre back up, answers to which were being given.
- 5.3 Strategic Risk 7; 'Delivering Council Services Through Adverse Environmental Conditions', and the action detailed as E 'Set up links to town and parish councils as they would be involved in implementing actions through adverse conditions.' it was explained that additional Emergency Planning staffing resource had recently been obtained, and officers undertook to provide details on progress when the next risk register update was given to the Committee.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report, although strong risk management and a solid understanding of risk helps to support robust financial management.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental or equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

8. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no data protection implications arising from this report.

9. LEADER'S COMMENTS

- 9.1 As Leader, I value the work undertaken by Portfolio-holders and EMT to revise the strategic risk register and understand more fully how these significant risks may impact the Council and our communities going forward, and what risk management work is underway. Also the input of Audit Committee to this important governance process. Due to the nature of these risks they cannot often be reduced through addressing likelihood or impact to 'green', but I am reassured that the right actions are underway and look forward to the next iteration which will outline lead accountability for delivery.

For further information

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