

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet are asked to review feedback from Audit Committee and note the contents of the Strategic Risk Register as part of the 6 monthly review process.

2. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- 2.1 The Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1), now included within this report contains the significant cross cutting 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 The objective of risk management is to recognise potential risks that could hinder the Council in reaching its objectives. It is intended to assess, devise, and put into action reliable strategies to diminish the probability and potential consequences of these risks materialising.
- 3.2 The council is legally obligated to establish protocols for handling risks according to the Accounts and Audit Regulations. This entails implementing effective internal controls that support the efficient functioning of the council and includes procedures for risk management. Accordingly, this holds great importance in the council's Local Code of Practice for Corporate Governance and is a key aspect of assurance highlighted in the Annual Governance Statement, relying heavily on a strong 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 The attached Appendix 1 presents the progress report for the actions required, with the blue narrative providing an overview of the current status for each item. It is important to note that the strategic risk register operates on a 6-month cycle. In June, the entire register is reviewed to assess the relevance of each cross-cutting risk and identifying any new cross-cutting risks that need to added, ensuring that risk scores accurately reflect the current situation, and review the status of risk control and any required actions. Then, in January, an update is provided on the progress of the required actions.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The register includes the same 8 Strategic Risks as included on the previously reviewed version of the register. The updated register at appendix 1 provides progress update narrative on the actions required to further manage residual risk, noting that some of the actions are continual, whereas others are finite.

5. AUDIT COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 5.1 During its meeting on 26 January 2024, the Audit Committee reviewed and acknowledged the Strategic Risk Register as part of its biannual review process. Members of the Committee made specific comments on the Strategic Risks related to the recent waterside water supply issue and the transition from analogue to digital telecom services.
- 5.2 In terms of the recent waterside water supply issue, it was noted that Strategic Risk 7 dealt with the council's response to activities aligned to adverse conditions, but that overall, there was insufficient reference to the need to support communities during those events. An update has been made to Strategic Risk 1 to reference this, and cross references to the risk controls and mitigations as covered by Strategic Risk 7.
- 5.3 Furthermore, the Committee inquired about the digital switchover from analogue to digital telecom services due to concerns raised about its potential effects on residents, including those who use Appletree Careline services. It was suggested that this consideration be noted as a current circumstance under Strategic Risk 1, with further details to follow in future revisions to the Strategic Risk Register.

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. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 8.1 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 in line with the Council's Risk Management Policy.

For further information

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