Cabinet- 4 September 2024

Strategic Risk Register

Purpose	For Decision
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	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 'For people, place, prosperity Corporate Plan 2024-28'
Recommendation	Cabinet are asked to recommend Council adopt the Strategic Risk Register.
Reasons for recommendation	Risk Management Policy 2022 confirms the role of Cabinet is to endorse the content of the Strategic Risk Register.
Wards	All
Portfolio Holders	Councillor Jill Cleary – Leader / All
Strategic Director	Alan Bethune – Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation
Officer Contact	James Clarke Insurance and Risk Officer 023 8028 5002 James.Clarke@nfdc.gov.uk

Introduction and background

- 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.
- 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 body'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.

Strategic Risk Register

- 3. The Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1) outlines the most significant overarching risks to achieving the current Corporate Plan and details the proposed measures to address these risks effectively. 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. These risks have been identified through collaboration between senior and executive council officers and Portfolio Holders to ensure a unified approach in identifying and recording these risks.
- 5. The strategic risk register covers a total of eight significant risks. The updated register in Appendix 1 provides a comprehensive description of the actions needed to adequately control residual risks. Some actions are ongoing, while others have specific completion points.
- 6. In the narrative detailing the current circumstances and risk controls, each paragraph is labelled with a corresponding letter that matches the narrative in the Risk Control section. For instance, a paragraph labelled 'A' aligns with a reference 'A1' in the Risk Control column, maintaining this lettering system followed by sequential numbers.
- 7. The column titled 'Further control to mitigate risk' suggests additional measures to enhance the existing risk controls.
- 8. The term 'Action Owner,' indicates the responsible job title for taking on each action.
- 9. The below table provides an explanation to the coding used for the CPTC Column (Corporate Plan Priority Theme Code). This ensures each action is geared towards the relevant themes within the Corporate Plan.

People Priorities	Code
Priority 1: Helping those in our community with the greatest need	PE1
Priority 2: Empowering our residents to live healthy, connected and fulfilling lives	PE2
Priority 3: Meeting housing needs	PE3
Place Priorities	
Priority 1: Shaping our place now and for future generation	PL1
Priority 2: Protecting our climate, coast, and natural world	PL2
Priority 3: Caring for our facilities, neighbourhoods, and open spaces in a modern & responsive way	PL3
Prosperity Priorities Code	
Priority 1: Maximising the benefits of inclusive economic growth and investment	PR1
Priority 2: Supporting our high-quality business base and economic centres to thrive and grow	PR2
Priority 3: Championing skills and access to job opportunities	PR3

Corporate plan priorities

10. The recommendations are designed to enhance the successful delivery of all corporate plan priorities by proposing risk mitigation strategies that address cross-cutting vulnerabilities facing the Council.

Options appraisal

11. A strategic risk register is essential for the council to effectively identify, assess, and manage risks. Without this register, we may face considerable operational, financial, and reputational repercussions, underscoring the importance of prioritising and managing risks appropriately.

Consultation undertaken

- 12. Service managers and the Executive Management Team (EMT) conducted an initial review of the Strategic Risk Register. It was determined that specific columns require updates to align with the recent recommendations provided by the internal audit. Additionally, a proposal was made to replace individual names in the action owners' section with job titles to enhance clarity and reference efficiency.
- 13. The Audit Committee contributed valuable feedback regarding the recent global ICT outage, which has been integrated into Strategic Risk 3A. This includes revisions to Risk Control A14 and the revision of Further control to mitigate risk, No 9. Moreover, input related to Strategic Risk 7 has been addressed, resulting in enhancements to

Current Circumstance A, as well as corresponding updates to Risk Controls A4 and A5.

Financial and resource implications

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

Legal implications

15. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Risk assessment

16. The Strategic Risk Register is evidence of the risk assessment for the cross-cutting risks.

Environmental / Climate and nature implications

17. There are no direct environmental or climate and nature implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications

18. There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

Crime and disorder implications

19. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

Data protection / Information governance / ICT implications

20. There are no direct Data protection / Information governance / ICT implications arising from this report.

Appendices

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Strategic Risk Register N/A.



Empower our communities to enhance quality of life

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Inherent	Current circumstance	Risk Control		Further control to mitigate	Action	CPTC
Risk Score			Score	risk	Owner	
Likelihood 3 x Impact 4 = High 12	 A. Communities continue to experience lingering impacts of elevated inflation rates, despite a recent decrease and steadying. The slow adjustment of pricing is expected to prolong the pressure on the cost of living, further straining local businesses. B. Communities are impacted through a shortage of 	A1.Targeted funding streams and support for voluntary and community sectors. A2. Engagement in discussions of fundamental activities such as Solent Freeport and County Deals.	Likelihood 2 x Impact 3 = Medium 6	Allocate resource to support Corporate Plan priorities.	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PR1
	housing including affordable housing Supply being delivered within the District. C. Communities can also require support during significant adverse environmental events.	A3. Close working partnerships with key stakeholders such as the Community Safety Partnership and the Skills Advisory Group.		 Continue to work in partnership for example with the Solent Freeport and with other public sector partners to explore new and existing opportunities to deliver to residents and businesses. 	Chief Executive	PL1
	 D. The Council needs to do more to support communities with enhanced digital channels for transacting and communicating with the Council. E. There will also be some challenges around the delivery of the Freeport and in the Analogue to digital switchover by 2025. 	A4. Collaborative working with key partners through the Cost of Living Steering Group to implement a Poverty Action Plan. A5. Regular engagement with the voluntary sector A6. Participation on the board		 Continued support to the Cost of Living Steering Group is provided, bringing a multi- agency approach to tackling issues affecting the most vulnerable in the community, working alongside the Local Partnership Campaign Manager to explore and promote further support to household. 	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PL1
		and its sub-committees of Solent Freeport Consortium Limited, ensuring collaborative working and shared goal achievement to advance the economic, social and environmental well-being of the District.		 4. Continuing to explore all housing enabling avenues across planning and housing. 5. Roll-out Digital Strategy prioritising customer needs. 	Assistant Director Housing and Assistant Director Place Development Assistant Director Transformation	PE3



	B1. Effectively review and apply the Council's Local Plan, including active monitoring of the implementation, while proactively working with developers to provide enabling infrastructure and continuously reviewing the Local Plan.	Establishment of a referral system to aid vulnerable residents.	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	PE1
	B2. The Council's Housing Revenue Account is actively seeking opportunities to bring forward additional affordable homes within the District, under Council ownership.			
	C1. The ability for the Council to operate in adverse environmental conditions is set out in its own right under Strategic Risk no.7. This includes the requirement for the Council to step up processes to support impacted communities in emergency situations.			



2. Achi Inherent Risk Score	eving future financia Current circumstance	Risk Control	Residual Risk Score	Further control to mitigate risk	Action Owner	СРТС
Likelihood 3 x Impact 3 = High 9	The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is affected by numerous external economic factors, such as the high bank base rate and the current rate of inflation (cost of living). These factors place significant pressure on expenditure and impact the ability to generate income, noting the longer-term implications of recovering from economic challenges. Other factors, more specific to the Council include pay award, levelling up, the fair funding review, the impact of a business rate reset and increased salary costs resulting from a need to align pay with the wider market. The Council may also need to do more to support communities due to the potential for closure of local businesses and job losses as a result of the cost of living crisis.				Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation Strategic Director Place Operations & Sustainability	PR1
	Given financial constrains affecting the Local Government sector as a whole, Local Authority Partners, may look to the District Council to support their own respective financial sustainability over the Medium term.	A5. Treasury Management Strategy to ensure the Council is acting within the prudential indicators. A6. Maintain appropriate level of financial reserves as contingency arrangements to provide resilience over the medium term. A7. Working with County Council, Towns and Parishes to maximise opportunities for joint working.		 Development of the Transformation Programme to deliver enhanced services and financial efficiencies to support the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan. Keep up discussions with upper and lower tier authority partners to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to residents. 	Assistant Director Transformation Chief Executive	PR3



		4	5. Implementing and embedding the Transformation Strategy that contains ample measures to support the successful implementation of the plan. This strategy encompasses numerous actions that will aid effective delivery of the transformation plan.	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PR1
			 Development of savings plans and invest to save initiatives. 	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PR1
		7	7. Development of capital plans in accordance with Capital Strategy with full financial appraisal and revenue implications	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PR1



Ensuring efficient and effective internal control, governance and compliance

Inherent Risk Score	Current circumstance	Risk Control	Residual Risk Score		Further control to mitigate risk	Action Owner	CPTC
Likelihood 3 x Impact 4 = High 12	appropriate compliance and controls: - Financial Regulations - Financial Management Code - Payment Card Industry Data Security	A1. Annual internal audit plan developed by senior officers and members is targeted at key risks areas and responsive to new areas of risk.	Likelihood 2 x Impact 4 = Medium 8	1.	Continue through information governance work programme, including updated document retention and destruction schedules for all services.	Assistant Director Governance	PL1
	Standard Accreditation - Production and publication of various statutory documents - Effectiveness of the Capital Change and Delivery Board	A2. External/internal audit regime.	0	2.	Management to undertake actions from the internal audit reports.	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PL1
	Effectiveness of the new Project Management Framework Timeliness of External Audit completion We continue to follow best practise in terms of	A3. Annual Assurance Statements compiled testing compliance with key business activities, supporting Annual Governance Statement compilation.		3.	Ongoing engagement with external audit.	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PL1
	documenting our Annual Code of Corporate Governance review, and preparation of an Annual Governance Statement, both with actions plans.	A4. Range of performance indicators that monitor internal controls.		4.	Continue to assess the effectiveness of the new Project Management framework for projects to	Assistant Director Transformation and Assistant Director – Governance	PL1
	We must show suitable resilience in the face of ICT outage (such as the Worldwide issue witnessed in July 2024).	A5. Maintenance of a range of policies that underpin the control framework – Financial Regulations, Counter Fraud			ensure appropriate Governance arrangements are in place for all projects.		
		Strategy, Risk Management Framework, Contract Procedure Rules coupled with staff training.		5.	Financial Management Code -complete outstanding actions identified through the initial assessment.	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PL1
		A6.Regular reporting at Audit Committee.		6.	Enhance member and officer development by offering continuous training, development and engagement opportunities.	Assistant Director Governance	PL1



	A7. Compliance with Transparency Code.	7.	Continue to ensure high levels of statutory compliance standards across services.	Assistant Director Assistant Director Governance	PL1
	A8. Compliance with Local Code of Corporate. Governance.	8.	Review and update of Business Continuity Plans	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	PE1
	A9. Key compliance roles identified and assigned i.e., Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer, Data Protection Officer, H&S, Facilities Lead etc.	9.	Annual review, testing and update of ICT Disaster Recovery Plan.	Assistant Director - Transformation	PL1
	A10. Compliance with information governance including the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018.				
	A11. Housing and Facilities Compliance reported regularly through EMT.				
	A12. Information Governance Team in place with regular reporting through EMT.				
	A13. Financial Regulations and workflows built into core financial system.				
	A14: ICT Disaster Recovery Plan and service Business Continuity Plans are in place.				



Creating the right culture, capacity and capability Risk Control Residual Risk **Further control to CPTC** Current circumstance Inherent **Action Owner** Risk Score Score mitigate risk Likelihood 2 1. Likelihood 3 A. The Council needs to attract, recruit and A1. Employee Forum to Embedding of new Council Chief Executive PI 1 Leadership structure retain the high calibre of employee that it encourage collaboration and x Impact 3 =x Impact 3 (including necessary requires to fulfil its expectations in Service engender a culture that = High 9 Medium 6 backfill). delivery. enables change and innovation. Assistant Director PI 1 Progress learnings from The Leadership review has concluded and Transformation employee survey. the Council now has a settled top tier A2. Learning and leadership structure. There is however a development programme to Assistant Director PR3 HR developing plans to risk around the time required to achieve be developed and rolled out Transformation work with third parties to organisational/cultural change. to provide training, tools and deliver a consistent and techniques to develop the structured approach to necessary skills. training and development. PI 1 A3. Regular 1-1's and annual Assistant Director Keep abreast of PDI process. Transformation developments in pay award negotiations and be A4. Staff Suggestion ready to respond scheme. accordingly. A6. Staff/union engagement. Transformation plan is live Assistant Director PI 1 and includes design Project Transformation principles for a new management/capability. operating model, approach, implementation. A7. Staff/officer wellbeing and necessary resources. and support. A key aspect of the design principles will be our people strategy and A8. Corporate plan 2020organisational 2024. development opportunities. A9. Hybrid working Continue to identify increasing potential pool of Assistant Director opportunities that should PL1 Transformation staff. be progressed in connection with improving service delivery.



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A10. More support and training on virtual working/managing staff.	7.	Allocate resource to support Corporate Plan	Strategic Director Corporate Resources	PR1
A11. Further ICT training to ensure maximum return on	8.	ambitions. Investigation and	S151 and Transformation	
investment. B1. Communications plan	.	identification of further collaborations that will support building capacity		PR1
(internal) allowing for regular staff engagement/progress updates.		and capability (and resilience) including both public and corporate business.		
B2. Performance management and key performance indicators in place.	9.	Transformation framework in progress	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PR1
	10.	Development of Workforce Strategy and enabling an agile workforce.		PL1



Ensuring robust security measures to protect the Council's digital

data an	d ICT assets from ϵ	external thre	ats			
Inherent Risk Score	Current circumstance	Risk Control	Residual Risk Score	Further control to mitigate risk	Action Owner	CPTC
Likelihood 4 A. x Impact 4 =	This risk relates to the Council's ability to defend itself against the constantly evolving threat from cyber based attack. The Council, in common with other public	A1. Up to date Disaster Recovery plan is in place.	Likelihood 3 x Impact 4 = High 12	 Continued development of O365 services to improve email and anti-virus protections. 	Assistant Director Transformation	PL1
High 16	bodies, should be regarded as a high- profile target given the impact and publicity a successful attack can have.	A2. Awareness training of officers and staff on the threats of cyber attacks.		Carry out annual penetration test.	Assistant Director Transformation	PL1
	The current insurance market for public sector cyber risks is volatile.	A3. Continued reviewing and tightening of existing IT Security Policy to ensure measures adapt to the		Ongoing refresher training on cyber risks for all staff.	Assistant Director Transformation	PL1
		changing threat, including awareness, familiarisation and training.		To look at service provisions externally that can assist with cyber risks.	Assistant Director Transformation	PL1
		A4. Acceptable use of IT policy to ensure staff are using equipment safely and appropriately.				
		A5. Relationships with other agencies to ensure best practice is established.				



Ability to be agile and shift focus in response to policy and national

politica	l change						
Inherent Risk Score	Current circumstance	Risk Control	Residual Risk Score		Further control to mitigate risk	Action Owner	СРТС
Likelihood 3 A. x Impact 4 = High 12	Changes in national politics and the general election (July 2024). Other legislation that will affect the council	A1. Continuous monitoring of political landscape to allow for early indicators of policy change.	Likelihood 2 x Impact 4 = Medium 8	1.	Making sure the workforce is aware that training is available.	Assistant Director Transformation	PR3
	 include: The environment bill Future planning reform Changes the regulatory landscape 	A2. Prudent financial and strategy assumptions to allow for agile responses.	0	2.	Ensuring professional training availability as this impacts departments e.g., Planning and Legal	Assistant Director Transformation	PR3
	to housing • Housing delivery There is a possibility of experiencing a shift in the political landscape post the general	A3. Corporate Plan 2024- 2028 adopted recently and work is proceeding accordingly.		3.	Encouraging staff to undertake professional development and service-related training.	Assistant Director Transformation	PR3
	election.	A4. Section 151 Officer role providing advice to the Council on current/ future financial challenges.		4.	Prepare and implement the national changes arising out of the new Social Housing Charter, which represents the biggest change in social	Strategic Director Housing and Communities	PE3
		A5. Reports to committee include explicit assessment of implications and therefore should identify/reflect current and future challenges.			housing for 40 years. Work has been ongoing for the last 2 years to prepare and implement the necessary changes including reporting to EMT, Housing & Communities Overview &		
		A6. The Executive should conduct horizon scanning to proactively anticipate and identify potential challenges and opportunities in order to influence outcomes through consultation.			Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet.		



A7. Membership of Local Government Association etc providing information/insights to the Council.		
A8. Members' roles and responsibilities including involvement in local networks, County Council, other agencies and national forums, enabling insight to be gained and shared with the Council.		
A9. Staff membership of professional bodies enabling own development and also providing for insights through membership of challenges that may present themselves to the Council.		
A10. Officer/member forums and networks.		



7. Delivering Council Services through adverse environmental

conditions						
Inherent Risk Score	Current circumstance	Risk Control	Residual Risk Score	Further control to mitigate risk	Action Owner	CPTC
Likelihood 2A x Impact 4 = Medium 8	 The following may affect the delivery of Council Services from a national and local perspective: Natural disasters / local power outages Workforce Strike Action Global Pandemic Terrorism Riot/Rebellion Flooding Major pollutions of surface waters 	service continuity plans. A2. Threat response plans which will include ICT Infrastructure response, alternative accommodation provisions and reallocation of staff. A3. Emergency Planning Strategy and defined roles assigned. A4. We establish robust communication channels with NFDC residents across various platforms, including social media. Our strategic partnerships with local media outlets, both radio and print, facilitate effective messaging during incidents. We actively encourage vulnerable residents to enrol in the priority services register maintained by utility companies.	Likelihood 2 x Impact 3 = Medium 6	I. Annual programme of Emergency Planning training to be established. Robust training continues to be arranged and carried out for officers involved in emergency planning. Work continues in ensuring business continuity plans are in place, including for interruptions due to energy outages.	Housing & Communities	PR1
	 Major politicists of surface waters and groundwaters Adverse Weather Fire Nuclear Powered Vessels related to 		2	 Review and challenge of functional Service Continuity Plan and conclude Business Continuity Planning. 	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	PL3
	pollution - Coastal Erosion - Industrial Strikes		3	 Regular reporting to EMT on progress against Emergency Planning and Business Continuity action plan 	Strategic Director Housing &	PL3
	The Council is supported by a dedicated resource focused on the leadership and management of Emergency Planning and Business Continuity initiatives, ensuring preparedness and resilience.			 Continuity to increase capacity for service to manage this risk. Set up links to Town and 	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	PL3
	The Council has established strategic partnerships with Town and Parish Councils, facilitating a coordinated response to assist communities affected by environmental events and enhance overall community resilience.			Parish councils as they would be involved in implementing actions through adverse conditions.	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	PL3



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		outreach to disseminate crucial information. During incidents, utility companies provide stakeholder emails to local councillors, ensuring they are well-informed and able to relay timely updates to their communities.		
		A5. The Emergency Planning response plans acts as a safeguard by centralising threat response plans and contact information for Town and Parish Councils, ensuring efficient coordination and rapid reaction to potential threats.		



Responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency Risk Control Residual Risk Further control to Current circumstance **Action Owner CPTC** Inherent Risk Score mitigate risk Score Likelihood 4 A. NFDC declared a Climate Change and A1 Deliver organisational Likelihood 3 1. Successful delivery of Strategic Director PI 2 projects within the Place Operations & Nature Emergency in 2021 in response and area-wide actions to x Impact 4 x Impact 4 = organisational and area-Sustainability to global temperature rise and the reduce emissions, adapt to = High 16 High 12 wide Climate Change and associated impacts on natural and climate change and Nature Emergency Action built environments. Declaring an safeguard the natural Plan emergency demonstrates NFDC's environment, as outlined in commitment to the legally binding the Climate Change and Climate and Sustainability target set by Central Government for Nature Emergency Action Strategic Director PI 2 to be identified as key Place Operations & the UK to reach net zero carbon by Plan. priorities in the new Sustainability 2050, however progress in achieving Corporate Plan, Local Plan the agreed targets is significantly off and other key strategies A2. Deliver, monitor and track at national and global levels. e.a.. Greener Housing report on four key Strategy programmes of work: As a result of climate change, the New carbon reduction, climate Development of policy Strategic Director Forest area is expected to experience: adaptation, nature Place Operations & framework to ensure recovery and programme Hot drier summers and warmer PI 2 Sustainability business as usual activities management. winters of NFDC services More frequent and extreme contribute positively to heatwaves, droughts flooding and climate and sustainability A3. Governance and oversight from Climate and objectives. coastal erosion. Nature Steering Group and Strategic Director Place and Sustainability Creation of a 5-year PL3 Failing to reduce emissions, improve Place Operations & strategy and action plan Overview and Scrutiny Sustainability environmental quality and adequately with aligned resources and Panel. adapt to climate change will have targets. impacts for NFDC residents, tenants, businesses, visitors, and the economy. A4. Climate Change and Inclusion of climate change Nature Emergency Annual Strategic Director PL2 risks in service level risk Place Operations & Report to inspire behaviour Responding at a pace and scale assessments and business Sustainability change, demonstrate continuity plans. comparable to the declared corporate leadership and emergency will ensure that the ensure transparency, environmental, social, financial and Training for officers and accountability, and members, particularly O&S reputational risks to NFDC are governance - detailing Strategic Director panel members, on climate PI 2 minimised, and any opportunities Place Operations & action to date, progress change, nature and arising from the changing climate are Sustainability sustainability issues. against targets and future maximised. actions.



National and local actions are key to achieving environmental goals, which include grid decarbonisation, policy planning, and enabling a green economy. However, funding these initiatives is challenging and could affect residents' costs of living.	A5. Consideration of climate change and sustainability issues in the early stages of all activities, including projects, plans, strategies, and procurements.	7.	Aligning level of resourcing to meet emerging corporate priorities.	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation	PL2
	A6. Prioritisation of climate change and sustainability in the Corporate Plan, Local Plan and other key strategies.	8.	Review of Coastal Strategy and Actions. Climate Change Action Plan with Ongoing partnership working.	Strategic Director Place Operations & Sustainability	PL2
	A7. Ensuring adequate resources for climate and sustainability efforts including third party financial support.	9.	Service risk assessments and business continuity plans to be developed.	Strategic Director Corporate Resources S151 and Transformation and Strategic Director Housing	PR1