Cabinet - 6 August 2025

Principal Risk Register Review

Purpose	For Decision
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	This report updates the Cabinet on the position of the Council's Principal Risk Register. The main updates are as follows: • All Service Risk registers have been reviewed to inform any proposed changes to the Principal Risk Register. • All principal risks have been reviewed, with the latest risk ratings shown in Appendix 1. • Two risks have been removed due to no longer being a key risk to the Council's operation: » Hampshire County Council – Political Environment » Major Projects – Hardley Depot • One additional risk has been included that has arisen or become apparent in the previous 6 months: » People – Recruitment and retention of staff considering Local Government reorganisation.
Recommendations	It is recommended that Cabinet:
	 Consider the Principal Risk Register updates and recommend adoption by Council.
Reasons for recommendation(s)	To meet the requirements of the Council's Risk Management Policy and to ensure that the Council complies with the corporate governance requirements relating to risk management.
Ward(s)	AII
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Jill Cleary – Leader / All

Strategic Director(s)	Alan Bethune – Strategic Director Corporate Resources and Transformation (Section 151 Officer) and Paul Whittles – Assistant Director - Finance
Officer Contact	Josie West Strategic Procurement Manager 02380 285741 Josie.West@nfdc.gov.uk

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 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.
- 3. The Council's Risk Management Policy was approved by Council in April 2025. It provides a structured framework to ensure risks and opportunities are reviewed across all Services, Portfolios and Corporately, in a consistent way.
- 4. The Council's Principal Risk Register is an important element of this framework and is reviewed and updated every 6 months. Service Risk Registers that support the Principal Risk Register are updated quarterly as a minimum.
- 5. Prior to the previous update in January 2025, the Principal Risk Register was reshaped to focus on the most significant risks encountered by the Council. The risks are strategic and will assist further in the Council achieving the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

Principal Risk Review

- 6. All Service Risk Registers have been reviewed and updated by the Senior/Service Managers. Where possible, Principal Risks have been aligned to a Service Risk to ensure consistency going forward.
- 7. All Principal Risks have been reviewed, and the relevant Senior/Service Managers have been consulted on proposed changes.
- 8. The amended Principal Risk Register can be found at Appendix 1.

Proposed changes to the Principal Risk Register

- 9. The Principal Risk "Operations Hampshire County Council Political Environment" has been removed due to the elections originally scheduled for May 2025, being delayed until May 2026 but we remain alert to this for future inclusion as required.
- 10. The Service Manager has amended the rating of the Principal Risk "Financial Fraud" from High to Medium. The Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy has recently been reviewed and approved by Audit Committee. Historically, instances of fraud have been relatively low when compared to the amount of money paid out by the Council.
- 11. The Principal Risk "Major Projects Hardley Depot" has been removed, as the construction of the new depot has been completed, and the depot is now open and operationally available, therefore, this is no longer deemed a Principal Risk. Any outstanding low risks will be managed at a Service level. The project is subject to ongoing monitoring by the Waste Programme Board.
- 12. The rating of the Principal Risk "Major Projects Planning and regulatory system upgrade" has been amended from Medium to High. The project to replace this system is now on hold as agreed at the latest Transformation Board meeting. However, agreement has been reached with the current software provider to maintain the current software for the next 18 months.
- 13. The rating of the Principal Risk "People Working Practices" has been amended from High to Medium. This risk was rated High due to the change in employee terms and conditions for Waste Operatives. All Waste Operatives have now moved across to the new terms and conditions, so the risk has reduced in this area.
- 14. The Principal Risk "People Recruitment and retention of staff" has been added. This risk relates to uncertainty amongst staff, brought about by Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution.
- 15. Other minor amendments to the Principal Risk Register are for clarification, to provide further detail, or to communicate updated

information following liaison with the relevant Service Manager or Assistant Director.

Comments from Audit Committee

- 16. The Chairman considered that it would be clearer if the unmitigated (inherent) and mitigated (residual) risk scores were both provided, to show the effect of the mitigation. This feedback has been incorporated, and the Principal Risk Register has been amended to show both risk scores. It also shows how each risk score has been calculated using a probability score multiplied by an impact score.
- 17. Officers have considered a suggestion to increase the risk score of PR2, Emergency Planning, from Medium to High, given the number of recent incidents involving water supply disruptions on the Waterside. However, officers consider this to be a corporate-wide risk, where all risks on the National Risk Register are reviewed (including severe weather, flooding, wildfires, cyber-attacks and many others) along with the role of the Council in responding and recovering from each of these incidents. Whilst water disruption has significantly affected parts of our communities, the responsibility for providing an adequate water supply lies with the water company (Southern Water in the case of the Waterside area); and the Council as a member of the Local Resilience Forum continues to support communities in preparing and responding to water outages whilst Southern Water progresses plans to improve the infrastructure.
- 18. On PR14, Waste Strategy Implementation and member engagement, officers undertook to confirm that members had the necessary information to support the roll out. Officers have been assured by the Waste & Transport Service Manager that members have been provided with a Communications Tool Kit as well as several briefing sessions and updates. Further guidance can be provided upon request.

Corporate plan priorities

19. The recommendations aim to improve the effective execution of all corporate plan priorities by presenting risk mitigation strategies that tackle the overarching vulnerabilities faced by the Council.

Options appraisal

20. An options appraisal is not applicable for this report.

Consultation undertaken

21. Consultation has been undertaken with Senior/Service Managers with responsibility for a Service Risk Register, particularly in areas where changes have been proposed.

Financial and resource implications

22. 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

23. If the legal principal risks are not managed this does bring risk to the council.

Risk assessment

24. The risk management implications are set out within the content of this report.

Environmental / Climate and nature implications

25. If the climate principal risks are not managed this does bring risk to the council.

Equalities implications

26. There are no direct equality implications from this report.

Crime and disorder implications

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

Data protection / Information governance / ICT implications

28. There are no direct data protection / information governance / ICT implications from this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Principal Risk Register

Background Papers:

Principal Risk and Risk Management Policy Update to the Audit Committee on 24th January 2025

Link to Risk Management Policy

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
Opera	ations					
PR1	Cyber Security	Transformation Priority 4: Designing modern and innovative services	Strategic Director Corporate Resources & Transformation Section 151 Officer	Inherent Risk Score High At 4	results in significant loss of sensitive data and/or significant disruption to	 Dedicated ICT security team in place to manage and maintain the organisations security posture. ICT Security & Information Governance Policy approved by EMT in place for all to adhere to. End user awareness provided by eLearning modules. Cyber incident response service in place to support actual or suspected breaches and expert assistance in the event of an incidence. The Council funds a reserve to quickly respond in the event of an attack. Compliance gained and renewed annually to accreditations including PSN and Cyber Essentials. Regular internal vulnerability scans taking place with remedial action undertaken. Full IT health check undertaken annually by an external accredited tester with remedial action undertaken

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR2	Emergency Planning	Transformation Priority 4: Designing modern and innovative services	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	Medium	violates the Council's obligations under the Civil	The Council is collaborating with the Hampshire Resilience Forum and works closely with partners at a local and national level to ensure effective preparedness for response and recovery to incidents. In April a new relationship was established with Southampton City Council and an Emergency Planning Coordinator role was recruited into, to support the planning, training and exercising of officers at all levels across the Council (Strategic, Tactical and Operational) to prepare and deliver a robust response to incidents across the district.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR3	Homelessness	Transformation Priority 4: Designing modern and innovative services	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	Medium Medium Medium At	to utilise our statutory authority to assist	To address the extraordinary demand, urgent efforts are being made to increase temporary accommodation options, while medium-term plans outlined in the Housing strategy are in progress. Funding has been increased and we are investing in homelessness prevention strategies.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR4	Business Continuity	All	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	High High	business continuity response enables an event to seriously disrupt	The Council acknowledges the previous resource shortfall. In April 2025 the Council embarked on a new working relationship with Southampton City Council to support in the review of its business continuity arrangements. An officer has recently been successfully recruited to implement any changes identified, which will focus on adapting to changes in working patterns and the digital environment, as well as emphasising operational resilience rather than responding to specific events. The Council is well positioned to respond effectively.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
Legal	and Regulatory					
PR5	Health and Safety	Transformation Priority 2: Being an employer of choice	Chief Executive	Medium	the workplace, compromising the safety and wellbeing of our staff. This includes	Implementation of the Council's H&S management system, including proactive monitoring and review of H&S arrangements, risk assessments, Safe System of work, training and performance monitoring. Regular H&S audits are undertaken by the internal H&S team who also take on the role of 'competent person' as identified under regulation 7 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR6	Information Governance	All	Strategic Director Corporate Resources & Transformation Section 151 Officer	High High	A serious data breach occurs and/or other significant instance of noncompliance with data legislation, leading to imposition of fines by the Information Commissioner's Officer (ICO), reputational risks and risk of litigation.	Implementation of the Council's GDPR action plan continues overseen by the Council's Data Protection Officer and supported by the Information Governance team. This action plan includes provision of training, raising corporate awareness, introduction of Data Protection Leaders, impact assessments to assess data risks for new projects, data sharing/processing agreements, breach response plan and breach log.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR7	Safeguarding	People Priority 1: Helping those in our community with the greatest need	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	High High	A safeguarding incident occurs which, through action or omission by the Council, might otherwise have been prevented.	Under the supervision of the Hampshire Safeguarding Boards, the Community Safety Team remains engaged in safeguarding issues, supported by Designated Safeguarding Reporting Officers (DSROs). They implement effective processes and training programs in housing, ensuring a comprehensive approach to safeguarding measures. We are in the process of undertaking a Section 11 audit measuring the Council's responses to Safeguarding matters which will be completed in June and reviewed by Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR8	Legal & Governance	All	Assistant Director Strategy & Engagement (Monitoring Officer)	Medium	Inadequate legal & governance arrangements resulting in unlawful decision making and/or maladministration .	Recruitment and retention of staff with knowledge and skills; ongoing training provided to staff to update knowledge and improve skills; access to specialist external legal advice when necessary. The Council has sound constitutional and governance arrangements in place including Schemes of Delegation and the Annual Governance Action Plan, approved by Audit Committee and monitored by statutory officers.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR9	Local Government Reform / Devolution	AII	Chief Executive	High High	the 'white paper'. We will work closely with our local authority partners to carry out specific	It is anticipated that extensive programme management will take place, and the Government have outlined that they will be undertaking consultation and NFDC will be invited to respond. There is financial provision being proposed to support the work that will follow.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR10	Social Housing Regulatory Compliance	People Priority 3 – meeting Housing Needs	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	High	Self-referral to Regulator of Social Housing. Non-compliant inspection grading. Reputational damage. Fine. H&S incident. Complaints and Disrepair claims.	Consumer Standard Gap Analysis and Action plan, Performance monitoring, Policy and Strategy reviews, reporting to EMT, Scrutiny Panel, Cabinet and Council. Tenant Engagement and Scrutiny

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
Finan	icial					
PR11	Income and Financial Position		Strategic Director Corporate Resources & Transformation Section 151 Officer	Inherent Risk Score High At 4 4 8 ## ## 3 3 6 9 ## at 2 3 4 Impact Residual Risk Score Medium At 4 4 8 ## ## 3 3 6 9 ## at 2 3 4 Impact At 1 2 3 4 Impact At 1 2 3 4 Impact At 1 2 3 4 Impact	poor finance settlement / extreme event causing significant	With the transformation programme in progress and ongoing reviews of the MTFP, the council is fully committed to ensuring both immediate and future financial stability. This is evidenced by the setting of a balanced budget for 2025/26 and the financial strategy to ensure this continues over the MTFP. Additionally, sufficient reserves are in place, alongside business continuity plans and council-wide emergency planning.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR12	Fraud	Transformation Priority 3: Being financially responsible	Strategic Director Corporate Resources & Transformation Section 151 Officer	High High		The Council's approach is set out in the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, which has recently been reviewed and approved by Audit Committee. Every Service area has a Fraud Risk Survey carried out and continually reviewed. All staff complete fraud e-learning each year.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR13	Procurement	Transformation Priority 3: Being financially responsible	Strategic Director Corporate Resources & Transformation Section 151 Officer	High High	Procurement activity takes place which is not in the best interests of the Council and its stakeholders and/or is in breach of legislation.	The Procurement Act 2023 is now in force. The procurement team have undertaken Cabinet Office training and updated Contract Standing Orders, tender documents and associated guidance for officers. Spend analysis is completed three times per year and shared with the leadership team. Central procurement processes have become more agile and resilient, and contract oversight is enhancing. However, some residual risk remains with the Services. It is essential to initiate contract management and tender processes well in advance.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
Majo	Projects					
PR14	Waste Strategy Implementation	Caring for our facilities,	Strategic Director Place, Operations and Sustainability	Inherent Risk Score High At 4 4 8 ## ## at 3 3 6 9 ## at 1 1 2 3 4 at 1 3	The ineffective transition from black plastic bags to waste bins can lead to significant operational impacts, including increased littering and improper bin usage, which may drive up disposal costs and create health hazards. Additionally, these issues can lead to potential legal repercussions and loss of funding. The reputational risks associated with a failed transition may strain community trust in the Council and heighten operational challenges.	An effective communication strategy is essential for informing the community and facilitating the successful implementation of the new waste management system. It is important for members to engage more broadly with the community regarding this significant service change.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR15	Transformation Programme	Transformation Priority 4: Designing modern and innovative services	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	Atilique of the second of the	Buy in and delivery of the transformation strategy and business case is crucial for achieving the corporate plan objectives. Failure to deliver will hinder the customer experience, modernisation of the organisation, maximisation of our assets and development of our staff.	Programme governance embedded and regular Cllr oversight through the Resources and Transformation O&S panel. Need to stay mindful of LGR context and take proportionate action based on this medium-term outlook.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR16	Planning and regulatory system upgrade	Transformation Priority 4: Designing modern and innovative services	Strategic Director Housing & Communities	High At 1 2 3 4 Impact Residual Risk Score High At 1 2 3 4 Impact At 1 2 3 4 Impact	The planning system may face challenges and potential failures without effective management. This underscores the importance of utilising dependable planning software to promote efficient processes and successful project outcomes, which could also impact the transformation program and regulatory services.	The project to replace this system is now on hold (as agreed at the last transformation board), however agreement has been reached with the current software provider to maintain the current software for the next 18 months.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
Repu	tation					
PR17	Climate and Ecological Emergency	Place Priority 2: Protecting our climate, coast, and natural world	Strategic Director Place, Operations and Sustainability	High Atiliage 2 2 4 6 8 1 1 2 3 4 Impact Residual Risk Score Medium 4 4 8 ## ## 1 2 3 4 Impact Residual Risk Score 1 1 2 3 4 Impact Atiliage 2 2 4 6 8 Atiliage 2 3 4 Atiliage 2 3 4 Atiliage 2 3 4 Atiliage 3 4	Failure to meet climate change-related goals leading to non-compliance with UK net zero legislation and failure to achieve Corporate Plan and Transformation objectives.	Continuing implementation of the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan. Funding of £150k per year for the corporate plan period. Regular review of budget allocation, seeking alternative funding sources, prioritising projects based on impact and funding availability. Recruitment and expansion of the Climate Change & Sustainability team is in progress to support these actions. Development of a service climate risk assessment template to ensure this risk is being addressed through service delivery.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
Peopl	le I					
PR18	Working practices		Strategic Director Corporate Resources & Transformation Section 151 Officer	High Atilinged 2 2 4 6 8 1 1 2 3 4 Impact Residual Risk Score Medium Atilinged 2 2 4 6 8 1 1 2 3 4 Impact Residual Risk Score	With a large in- house workforce providing such a variety of diverse services, application of local working practices in comparison to standard terms and conditions could result in inconsistencies across the workforce	A thorough staff consultation has been undertaken recently in Waste Services to advise of proposed terms and conditions changes in readiness for the new waste service. A recent review of Essential User Allowances has also recently been undertaken and is nearing conclusion.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Theme	Risk Owner	Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
PR19		Transformation Priority 2: Being an employer of choice	_	High Atiliqued of the second	LGR and Devolution may increase the risk	Development of employer proposition, consideration of other non-pay benefits, provision of flexible/hybrid working. Maintaining talent pool, career progression opportunities, leadership development and upskilling of existing staff; more learning resource in place due to People Strategy to assist managers.

Ref	Risk Title	Corporate Plan Risk Owne	r Risk Rating	Risk Event	Overview and Mitigation
		Theme			

Risk Rating

Risk Score	Risk Level
9-16	High Risk
4-8	Medium Risk
1-4	Low Risk

Risk Matrix

Probability

Impact

Low Moderate Major Significant