

Strategic Risk Register

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



DATE	16/01/2019
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
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PURPOSE

1. To update members on the current Strategic Risk Register.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Committee considers the Strategic Risk Register and comments on its contents.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. Members can monitor the Strategic Risk Register arrangements.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Strategic Risk Register

4. The current Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1) was approved by the Executive in August 2018 (Minute 30 14/0818). There are twelve main risks recorded.

Governance Issues

5. Effective and up to date risk management is a key element of good corporate governance and contributes to an effective, focused organisation that has an understanding of the challenges facing it. The register links to the strategic actions that the Council has in place to control these risks and to strategic plans and actions to better serve the community. Risk Scoring provides a relative assessment of the risks and effectiveness of controls and plans to address the risks.

Review of Risk Register

6. The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed to align with the Strategic Plan. Risks are not static and the register needs to be aligned with the current position.

Risk 10 – Workforce and Skills Capacity Challenges

7. This has increased from a risk score of 8 to a risk score of 12. This is an increasing likelihood (from 2 to 3).

8. There were several Heads of Service who expressed that one of their top risks were related to workforce capacity.

Risk 11 Malicious Acts

9. The Government's National Risk assessment for malicious acts is Severe and has been increased to Critical, its highest level, several times after events. Changes in tactics and targets have been a recent feature in international terrorism. A different threat faced by all local authorities is a malicious act like the South Oxfordshire arson attack in 2015. The council has several effective corporate measures in place to control this risk. These include a range of physical security measures, emergency planning, business continuity planning, event management, liaison with Police and other responders and staff instructions. The risk score of 5 represents an impact of 5 but a likelihood of 1. This was moved from service risk registers to the strategic risk register to increase its awareness and transparency.

Risk 12 Safeguarding

10. This is a prominent risk for Councils with social services but district councils can still be exposed to this risk. The council has various effective corporate measures in place to control this risk. These include a clear corporate message ('If there's a doubt, then there's no doubt'), DBS (Criminal Record) checking, compulsory training and a council wide reporting structure. The risk score of 5 represents an impact of 5 and a likelihood of 1. This was moved from service risk registers to the strategic risk register to increase its awareness and transparency.

Other changes

11. The links to changed strategic objectives have been included as have organisational changes in the Lead Responsibilities.

Assurance Mapping

12. This approach presents a presentation of the assurance that the Council's Strategic Risks are being appropriately managed. The model applied is that of the government and uses three lines of defence as illustrated in Appendix 2.
13. The detail and the outcomes of the assurance mapping is presented at Appendix 3. It is not necessary that each risk should have a line of associated defence but that there is appropriate assurance to the risk to ensure that it is managed effectively. The outcome of the assessment is that there is no specific improvement actions required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

14. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

15. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

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16. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO: