

Committee Name: Cabinet

Meeting Date: 7 November 2024

Issue Title: Council risk register report November 2024

Report of: Senior Leadership Team

Cabinet Portfolio: Leader and Portfolio Holder - Strategic Direction and Partnerships

Key Decision: N

Confidentiality: Non Exempt

Purpose of Report

1. The Council maintains a risk register which is revised by management on a regular basis. It is reported to both the Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Committee and Cabinet every 6 months to provide assurance that appropriate arrangements are in place to mitigate the risks identified.

Recommendation

Cabinet is requested to note the risk register report as well as the comments from O&S Committee and confirm risks are within tolerance and no remediation plans are required.

Background

2. Risk management enhances strategic planning and prioritisation, assists in achieving objectives and is a key element of the Council's governance framework. It is essential that the Council identifies, monitors, and mitigates (when proportionate to the resources required) the risks it is exposed to.
3. An extract of the council risk register as of September 2024 is attached at Appendix A showing the highest rated risks at this point in time. It has been prepared by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and their managers. All managers are responsible for the identification and management of risk within their service areas.
4. The council risk register presented contains the key risks as assessed by SLT, the format has been updated to mirror the format presented at the individual Service Panels, to maintain consistency and for ease of comparing.
5. The risks are considered to be within tolerance and no remediation plans are deemed to be required

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Comments

6. The O&S Committee considered this report at its meeting on 8 October 2024. Members agreed to pass on the following comment:
"Why the risk rating of the proposed changes to the planning system item risk had significantly reduced from the previous level in April 2024, particularly in the light of the NPPF changes. Members of the Committee requested that Cabinet specifically reviewed this risk and asked for an explanation from the Executive Director, Place"

Response from the Executive Director, Place:

“The Executive Director, Place confirmed the changes to the planning system should stay at a '5 - almost certain' and the current consequence should be '4 - Critical' prior to controls - and then be a '3 - Major' after controls are put in place. Risk 'Pla3' has been updated in the Appendix to reflect this.

The risk associated to changes to the Planning System has been reviewed in light of the consultation from the new Government on the reforms to the Planning System at the end of July this year.

There are no controls which can prevent the likelihood of the changes being implemented. Therefore in the prior and post control assessment the risk stays at 5 - almost certain.

In assessing consequences, the scale of changes proposed by the Planning Reforms, and the transitional arrangements mean it is very difficult to have a significant mitigation to the consequences. That is why at initial consequences it is 4 - critical, and post control it is 3 - major; and hence the combined score is 15 which is red.”

Corporate Governance Considerations

Relevance to the Corporate Plan

7. The O&S Committee and Cabinet's oversight of risk management contributes to the Corporate Plan priority of delivering an efficient and effective Council.

Service Plan

- Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan? Yes

Legal and Constitutional Issues

8. There are no legal implications arising from this report.
9. The local code of corporate governance and the annual governance statement make reference to the regular updating and review of the council risk register.
10. Oversight of risk management ensures that the processes that have been publicly stated as being in place are followed.

Financial and Resource Implications

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report. All risk management activities are currently carried out within approved budgets.
12. Decisions to further mitigate risks may require additional resources which will be considered as part of the mitigation decision process.

Risk Management

13. The maintenance and oversight of the Council's corporate risks is an important control. A failure to manage risk appropriately brings a range of potential implications for the Council including financial loss and reputational damage.

Equalities

14. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Climate CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

Action

16. Cabinet is requested to note the risk register report and confirm risks are within tolerance and no remediation plan(s) are required.

Contact Details:

Graeme Clark, Executive Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer
Kirsty Jenkins, Executive Director Community
Mark Jaggard, Executive Director Place

Appendices

Appendix A – Council Risk Register September 2024 highest rated risks

Background Papers:

None