

## **CABINET**

**DATE OF MEETING: 5 October 2023**

**TITLE OF REPORT: COUNCIL RISK REGISTER REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023**

**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 Committee and Cabinet every 6 months to provide assurance that appropriate arrangements are in place to mitigate the risks identified.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Cabinet is asked to review the extract from the council's risk register (Appendix A) and note the action in place to reduce the overall impact of the risks.

### **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 2023 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 comments from Overview and Scrutiny Committee are:
  - Members asked for more clarity within it, as items that carry a high risk, but were unlikely, would score the same as a moderate risk that was more likely to happen. It was agreed that this would be reflected in the report next time with both impact and likelihood scores being shown for each risk rather than just the combined rating.
  - A request was made for some of the major high rated risk items, such as the waste contract, to be reviewed more than twice a year. Members also asked for future reports to show the previous residual risk rating alongside the current one.
  - Discussion took place around the new planning law that the government is bringing in. The meeting was told that it would affect the amount of money the council could receive for planning, and once the government announces what the changes are, the council would adjust the budgets accordingly.

- The spending of the £0.96 million forecast budget surplus in 2023/24 was discussed, it was queried as to whether it should be saved as there was a budget shortfall forecast for 2024/25. It was agreed that although there was
- currently a surplus, it was confirmed that it would not be allocated until the in- year position and budget for next year was more certain

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040**

6. 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**

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

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

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

### **Risk Management**

12. 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**

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

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **ACTION**

15. To review the high rated risks and note the action being taken to reduce the overall risk impact.

### **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 2023 highest rated risks

### **Background Papers:**

None