

Report to: **Audit Committee**

Date: **26 March 2021**

By: **Chief Operating Officer**

Title of report: **Strategic Risk Monitoring – Quarter 3 2020/21**

Purpose of report: **To update the Committee on current strategic risks faced by the Council, their status and risk controls / responses and to describe the current Risk Management process.**

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is recommended to note the current strategic risks and the risk controls / responses being proposed and implemented by Chief Officers.

1. Background

1.1 Sound risk management policy and practice should be firmly embedded within the culture of the Council, providing a proportionate and effective mechanism for the identification, assessment and, where appropriate, management of risk. This is especially important in the current climate where there remains considerable uncertainty about the future.

1.2 Robust risk management helps to improve internal control and support better decision-making, through a good understanding of individual risks and an overall risk profile that exists at a particular time. To be truly effective, risk management arrangements should be simple and should complement, rather than duplicate, other management activities.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The Council's Strategic Risk Register, which is attached as Appendix 1, is formally reviewed by DMT's and CMT on a quarterly basis. Members should note that this version of the Strategic Risk Register, which relates to Quarter 3 of 2020/21, was reviewed by CMT on 3 February 2021 and presented to Cabinet on 2 March 2021.

2.2. The previous update to this Committee was in September 2020 to present the Strategic Risk Register as at Quarter 1 2020/21. The Quarter 3 Strategic Risk Register therefore includes updates since Quarter 1. There have been various updates to the Strategic Risk Register since Quarter 1 to reflect the Council's risk profile as follows:

- **Risk 5 (Reconciling Policy, Performance & Resources), Risk 7 (Schools), Risk 12 (Cyber Attack), Risk 14 (Post European Union (EU) Transition) and Risk 16 (COVID-19)** have updated risk definitions and controls.
- **Risk 1 (Roads), Risk 4 (Health), Risk 6 (Local Economic Growth), Risk 8 (Capital Programme), Risk 9 (Workforce) and Risk 15 (Climate)** have updated risk controls.
- **Risk 10 (Recruitment)** was removed from the register as a stand-alone risk and incorporated into Risk 9 (Workforce).

2.3 Officers will continue to explore opportunities to further strengthen the Council's risk management arrangements and for mitigating our key strategic risks. It is however, important to recognise that in some cases there is an inherent risk exposure over which the Council has only limited opportunity to mitigate or control.

PHIL HALL
Interim Chief Operating Officer

Contact Officers:

Rachel Jarvis: Head of Finance (Planning and Reporting)

Tel: 01273 482332

Steven Bedford: Finance Manager (Capital and Planning),

Tel: 0770 1394847

Local Member: All

Background documents:

None