

# WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

Report Title	Strategic Risk Register
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### Appendices

Appendix 1 – Executive Leadership Team Risk Register

#### **1. Purpose**

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- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Strategic Risk Register which has been considered and approved by the Executive Leadership Team.

#### **2. Recommendations**

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- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee considers the Strategic Risk Register attached at Appendix 1 and comments upon it.

#### **3. Issues and Choices**

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##### **Information**

- 3.1 The Audit Committee's terms of reference set out that the Committee should:

*"Monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance within the Council."*

- 3.2 The authority's first risk register was presented to the Audit and Governance Committee at the meeting held in July. Between each meeting ELT will review and update the risk register. Following that review a number of amendments have been made to the narrative contained within the risk register and the mitigating actions have been updated to reflect the current situation.
- 3.3 The residual score for each risk has also been re-considered for all risks to determine if the score should be amended to reflect the revised actions and general update in the risk. The review of the risk register should always lead to updates on the current position on each risk, but quite often the residual risk will remain the same. This is the case in this first update where the risk scores for all

- 3.4 12 risks have remained as previously scored despite the risks being reviewed and updated. This is not surprising as the risk scores should only change where there has been a significant improvement or deterioration in the risk environment. The changes in the narrative for each of the risks is highlighted in red.
- 3.5 The number of strategic risks need to reflect the key risks the authority is currently facing but needs to be focussed to ensure those risks are properly managed and mitigated. Too many risks will lead to a lack of focus in addressing the key areas of risk.
- 3.6 The risk register highlights 12 strategic risks which will receive the focus of the executive leadership team to address.
- 3.7 The risk management uses a 5 x 5 risk assessment matrix highlighting the likelihood of each of the risks happening and the impact those risks will have if they do come to pass. The highest score a risk can be given therefore is 25.
- 3.8 Two risk scores are provided in the appendix for each of the risks. An 'inherent' risk score which is assessed as if no controls or mitigating actions were in place. Mitigations are then highlighted and each score is re-assessed taking into account those mitigating actions to provide a 'residual' score for each risk.
- 3.9 The residual score and the direction of travel for each of the risks is summarised in the table below:

Executive Leadership Risk	Residual Score	Direction of travel	Latest Update
E01 Financial Resilience & Sustainability	12 medium risk	↔	Ongoing impact of Covid-19 continues to affect all Council activities, mitigating actions and funding in place to reduce
E02 Statutory functions	12 medium risk	↔	
E03 Childrens Trust	12 medium risk	↔	Childrens trust live in Nov 20 and arrangements now with WNC & NNC from April 21
E04 Workforce Capacity and skills	9 Low risk	↔	
E05 West Strategic Plan	12 medium risk	↔	
E06 Economic Recovery	16 High Risk	↔	Recovery Planning commencing as national lockdown release confirmed and impacts can be assessed alongside wider initiatives & funding
E07 Strategic Community Partners	9 Low risk	↔	
E08 Critical Incidents	12 medium risk	↔	Significant resource still utilised in COVID response but moving to restore, recover and react stage
E09 Health & Safety	9 Low risk	↔	
E10 Information Security	15 medium risk	↔	
E11 Local Government Reorganisation closure	9 Low risk	↔	
E12 Corporate Governance	6 Low risk	↔	



3.9 These risks will be reviewed on a regular basis and reported back to the Audit and Governance Committee on quarterly basis. Any new and emerging risks will also be considered as part of this process.

#### **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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##### **4.1. Policy**

4.1.1. There are no significant policy implications arising from this report.

##### **4.2. Resources and Risk**

4.2.1. The Council's strategic risks are contained within attached Appendix.

##### **4.3. Legal**

4.3.1. There are no significant legal issues associated with this report.

##### **4.4. Equality and Health**

4.4.1. There are no significant equality and health issues associated with this report.

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