



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

10 November 2021

Report Title	Strategic Risk Register
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Appendices

None

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to highlight the changes in the strategic register since the last meeting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee considers the Strategic Risk Register:

A copy of the Risk Register can be requested by emailing democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

3. Issues and Choices

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 At the last meeting the Committee requested that the detailed risk register be provided as a link rather than as detailed Appendices so that members could consider them 'on-line' as it was felt that this was the most efficient method of



considering the detail contained within the appendices. They also requested that any changes to the risk register are highlighted in this covering report.

- 3.4 It should also be noted that in addition to these two changes the reporting of the Corporate Risk Register is being further reviewed by officers to make the reporting process more effective.
- 3.5 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. In this update the risk scores for all 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.
- 3.6 The changes for this update reflects comments for Children's Trust (risk E03), the changes are highlighted in red below and within the link on the detailed risk register.

Potential impact if risk not mitigated	Controls	Control assessment	Mitigating actions (to address control issues)	Comments
C Councils childrens services remain inadequate with poor practice, poor support for children and families and poor outcomes for children at risk or in care	Service delivery contract includes target service standards and KPIs for Trust and business plan includes clear improvement plan tasks agreed with DFE and commissioners	Reasonable	<p>Clear improvement plan and business plan outcomes set out and tracked by Council Client unit</p> <p>Contract review point at 5 years, and an annual review process from year 2 of the contract</p> <p>plan for and follow recommendations for improvements from OFSTED inspections</p> <p>DFE provided statistical neighbours as a benchmark for costs and performance</p>	<p>DFE commissioner remains in place for 6 months past 1st April</p> <p>OFSTED visit in March 21 found improving practice and good leadership although some inconsistencies - all areas already part of improvement plan and associated action plan to be implemented ahead of first IAG OFSTED visit April 22. The OFSTED monitoring visit in July 2021 found tangible progress which continues to gain traction in improving experiences, progress and outcomes. Consistency remains an area of focus as does caseload sizes and SW recruitment</p>

- 3.7 The next full update from all service areas will be undertaken during November and December to ensure a quarterly reporting date of 31 December 2021.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 The risk register highlights 12 strategic risks which will receive the focus of the executive leadership team to address.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 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.



3.12 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)

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.



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

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