

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

28 September 2022

Report Title	Risk Register Update Report
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1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the risk register, up to 30 June 2022.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The position is noted

3. Issues and Choices

3.1. Report background

3.1.1. The Audit and Governance 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. 2022/23 Risk Register

3.2.1. The Executive Leadership Team reviews and updates the risk register, monitoring progress in operational management of risks, on a regular basis. The residual score for each risk has also been considered and 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.

3.2.2. In this update the risk scores for 11 risks have remained as previously scored despite the risks being reviewed and updated. Following the Committee deep dive on E04

Workforce capacity and skills and, further evaluation of the mitigations in place the residual score for this risk has been increase from 9 to 12, thus demonstrating the added value the Audit and Governance Committee bring to the process. The Committee were concerned that given the current challenges in the labour market the residual risk score was too low. They carried out a ‘deep dive’ on the risk and following that officers were of the view that the position had changed significantly enough to increase the residual score to a medium risk rating of 12.

3.2.3. The table below gives the residual scores for the strategic risks as at 30 June 2022.

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 impacts
E02 Statutory functions	12 medium risk	↔	
E03 Children’s Trust	12 medium risk	↔	
E04 Workforce Capacity and skills	12 medium risk	↑	Residual risk increased from 9 to 12
E05 West Strategic Plan	12 medium risk	↔	
E06 Economic Recovery	12 medium 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	↔	

3.2.4. The detailed risk register is available upon request. Please contact the Chief Internal Auditor (Jen Morris) if a copy is required.

3.2.5. The next full update from all service areas will be undertaken during September to ensure a quarterly reporting date of 30 September 2022.

3.2.6. 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.

3.2.7. The risk register highlights 12 strategic risks which will receive the focus of the executive leadership team to address. 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. Two risk scores are evaluated on 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.

3.2.8. This risk management report has been provided to the Committee at a higher level than previous risk management reports to make it more focussed. The detailed risk register is available upon request and the risk management approach is in the process of being reviewed and streamlined.

4. Implications

4.1. Policy

4.1.1. Audit and Governance Committee monitors the Council's risk position.

4.2. Resources and risks

4.2.1. As set out in the report

4.3. Legal



4.3.1. There are no specific legal issues to highlight within the report.

4.4. Equality and Health

4.4.1. There are no specific equality and health issues to highlight within this report.