

Audit and Governance Committee

21 July 2020

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

Strategic Risk Register

Final Decision-Maker	Audit and Governance Committee
Portfolio Holder(s)	All
Lead Director	Lee Colyer – Director of Finance, Policy and Development
Head of Service	Rich Clarke – Head of Audit Partnership
Lead Officer/Report Author	Lee Colyer – Director of Finance, Policy and Development
Classification	Non-Exempt
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

1. That the Committee **notes** the risk management report and arrangements for managing strategic risk.

This report relates to the following Five Year Plan Key Objectives:

- A Prosperous Borough
- A Green Borough
- A Confident Borough

This report is concerned with the internal control and governance of the Council. Successful controls and effective governance are a crucial underpinning for all corporate priorities.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Management Board	8 July 2020
Audit and Governance Committee	21 July 2020

Strategic Risk Register

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the strategic risks identified by the Council and currently being managed and tracked by senior management. The report provides a current update on the evaluated threat level and controls in place for each risk issue.
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2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The risks included in the report were developed in a risk management workshop and health check facilitated by Zurich Insurance Limited on 25 March 2019, with the risks being formally adopted by Cabinet on 1 August 2019. Since that time, risk owners have kept the risks and controls under review with periodic reporting both to the Cabinet and the Audit & Governance Committee.
- 2.2 The Council's Management Board periodically reviews the risks identified along with the risk owners.

Climate Emergency

- 2.3 On the 17 July 2019 Full Council declared a climate emergency. A climate cross-party working group has been established and a dedicated report is due with actions to make the Borough carbon neutral by 2030. This issue is of strategic importance and a new strategic risk has been created namely;

- Risk 10: Climate Emergency

Covid-19 Pandemic

- 2.4 On the 23 March 2020 following the national emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Director of Finance, Policy and Development notified the Audit & Governance Chairman that the Council had put its Business Continuity Plan into full operation. The Strategic Risk 6: Service Interruption had increased from Red to Black, with a likelihood of Almost Certain and an Impact of Major.
- 2.5 The Covid-19 pandemic is unprecedented and continues to have a profound impact on the Council and the borough. This issue is of strategic importance and a new strategic risk has been created namely;

- Risk 11: Pandemic

- 2.6 Risk owners (managers) for certain risks are invited to attend the Audit and Governance Committee meetings to outline the Council's approach to managing their particular risk(s). The this meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee will be able to examine the risk(s) owned by William Benson, Chief Executive, namely;

- Risk 5: National policy changes in short term that impact negatively on TWBC;
- Risk 7: Capacity fails to keep pace with ambition; and
- Risk 11: Pandemic

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 There is no legal requirement on the authority formally to monitor its risks, still less is there a defined framework to do so. Although failing to monitor and record risks will leave the Council vulnerable to external criticism – for example by its external auditors who are required to assess the effectiveness of risk management when considering their annual Value For Money conclusion – the Council could decide that is a price worth paying against using some of its resources to identify and monitor risk.
- 3.2 Even accepting the utility in gathering systematic monitoring information on the risks it faces, there is a wide range of different approaches the Council might adopt. Even if one looks solely at the local government sector, there are myriad formats, structures and arrangements adopted to record and present information to senior officers and members.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The report sets out the risks using the methodology and format previously agreed by the Council, which is essentially the method advocated by Zurich from the 2019 risk workshop.

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 The Strategic Risk Register has undergone periodic review and examination by the Council's Management Board, the Cabinet and the Audit & Governance Committee. This stands in addition to ongoing monitoring by the identified risk owners. This report incorporates feedback and updates from all sources.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off (name of officer and date)
Legal including Human Rights Act	The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to have a sound system of control which includes arrangements for the management of risk. This Report is part of those arrangements and is designed to ensure that the	Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy and Development

	appropriate controls are effective. There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.	
Finance and other resources	None identified at this stage.	
Staffing establishment	None identified at this stage.	
Risk management	Risk management is the subject of the report but it does not of itself raise new risk issues for consideration.	
Data Protection	No new issues identified at this stage.	
Environment and sustainability	None identified at this stage.	
Community safety	None identified at this stage.	
Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.	
Health and wellbeing	None identified at this stage.	
Equalities	None identified at this stage.	

7. REPORT APPENDICES

The following document is to be published with this report and forms part of the report:

- Appendix A: Strategic Risk Register Update June 2020

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None