

Annual Corporate Risk Report

Date: 11th December 2023

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This annual report updates the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board with a joined up picture of the risk and resilience activities undertaken by the council. The term 'risk and resilience' covers the three inter-related areas of Risk Management, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Management.

The report includes details of the most significant risks currently on the council's corporate risk register with summary assurances describing the key controls in place to manage the risks and further actions planned, signposting to where more detailed information can be found.

The report includes details of the work undertaken by the council's Resilience and Emergencies Team, who have responsibility for preparing for, responding to and helping the council and the city recover from disruptive incidents and emergencies.

Members are requested to note that the Annual Corporate Risk Report (seen at Appendix 1) was reviewed by Executive Board at their meeting on 20th September 2023. Subsequently, due to the changing nature of the council's risk environment, the rating for the corporate risk on Medium term financial strategy has increased, Nationally, many local authorities are facing similar challenges around the resources required to deliver services.

This report is supplemented by an annual assurance report on the authority's risk and resilience arrangements considered each year by the council's Corporate Governance and Audit Committee. This report is publicly available and focuses on the policies, procedures, systems and processes in place to manage risk and resilience across all levels within the council and with our partners. The most recent report was approved at the Committee's meeting on 27th November 2023.

Recommendations

- a) Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board is asked to note the annual risk and resilience report and the assurances given on the most significant corporate risks in line with the council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy and the Board's overarching responsibility for their management.

What is this report about?

- 1 The annual report seen in Appendix 1 updates the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board on the most significant risks currently on the corporate risk register (their descriptions, risk ratings and the accountable director and portfolio member risk owners) with summary assurances describing the key controls in place to manage the risks and any further actions planned, signposting to where more detailed information can be found.
- 2 The report summarises the work of the council's Resilience and Emergencies Team who have responsibility under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) for co-ordinating how the council prepares for and responds to emergencies.
- 3 The report will provide a key source of evidence on the authority's risk management arrangements contributing to the Annual Governance Statement to be considered later this year by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 4 The risk information contained in the appendix is provided for Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board's information.
- 5 This is an assurance report with no decision required, so it is not necessary to conduct an equality impact assessment.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 Should any of the corporate risks arise, then this would impact on the achievement of the Pillars. Strong risk management arrangements are essential to minimise the risks of failing to achieve the ambition and outcomes.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 7 This is an information report and as such does not need to be consulted on with the public. However, summary information on the corporate risks is published on the council's website.
- 8 The template for Committee and Board reports for decision making require authors to detail the risk management aspects as part of the mandatory 'What are the key risks and how are they being managed?' section. This ensures that Elected Members are sighted of key risks when making decisions.
- 9 The corporate risk assurances at Appendix 1 have been subject to consultation with lead officers, the Corporate Leadership Team and portfolio members. The arrangements in place to manage the council's risks are embedded and therefore subject to consultation and engagement on an ongoing basis. Consultation is undertaken as part of risk management best practice, and in line with the roles and responsibilities set out in the Risk Management Policy and Strategy.

What are the resource implications?

- 10 All council risks are required to be managed proportionately, factoring in the value for money and use of resources. Should any of the corporate risks included in this report arise, including those of a resilience nature, there would be significant financial, staffing and other resource implications for the council.
- 11 Effective risk management arrangements help to avoid costly mistakes from being made and minimising their impact if they happen.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 12 This report supports the council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy in providing assurances on the management of the authority's most significant risks. The appendix provides details of the key strategic risks facing the council, provides details of how they are being managed along with any further actions required to treat them.
- 13 Risk and resilience arrangements are captured within the council's corporate risks on 'City Resilience' and 'Council Resilience' (also known as 'Major incident in the city' and 'Major incident in the council') with regular reporting to the Corporate Leadership Team and annually to the Executive Board.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 The council's risk management arrangements support the authority's compliance with the statutory requirement under the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015. Through this, Regulation 6 requires authorities to conduct a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of its systems of internal control in accordance with proper practices. The system of internal control, including arrangements for the management of risk, assists the council in effectively exercising its functions.
- 15 The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) imposes a clear set of roles and responsibilities on those organisations with a role to play in preparing for and responding to emergencies. The Act requires all Category 1 responders (which includes local authorities) to maintain plans to ensure they can continue to exercise their functions in the event of an emergency so far as is reasonably practicable. Category 1 responder duties under that Act also include maintenance of plans to prevent emergencies and reduce, control and mitigate the effects of an emergency, should it occur.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

16 N/A

How will success be measured?

17 N/A

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

18 N/A

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Annual Corporate Risk and Resilience Report 2023

Background papers

- None