

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee on
16th March 2023

Risk Management

Report of the Chief Executive

Classification	This report is Public
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PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To update members of the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee of the current position regarding risk management arrangements and the Council's Strategic Risk Register.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

Risk Management Strategy

- 1.1 The Audit and Corporate Overview Committee approved the Council's refreshed Risk Management Strategy at its meeting which took place on 30th September 2022. The strategy was then approved and adopted by Executive on 31st October 2022. It has been recommended the strategy is reviewed every 2 years and therefore the next review has been scheduled for the autumn of 2024. The Strategy includes but is not limited to the following;
- The nature of risk for the Council
 - The benefits of a robust risk management approach
 - The Council's risk appetite
 - Risk categorisation – Operational, Governance, Strategic
 - Project and Partnership risk
 - The Council's risk management approach and arrangements including the 'Risk Management Group'
 - Roles and responsibilities including Senior Risk Officer and Senior Information Risk Officer (SRO and SIRO)

- 1.2 The Strategy also details the work of the Risk Management Group (RMG). This is chaired by the appropriate Cabinet Member and includes the Council's Senior Risk Officer (SRO), Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO), S151 Officer, Senior Managers, Internal Audit and Health and Safety. The group provides a comprehensive oversight of risk throughout the organisation.
- 1.3 The Group oversees all Council operational and strategic risk registers ensuring they are up to date and accurate whilst offering challenge to the assessment process itself. It is responsible for risk management reporting to stakeholder groups across the Council, including this Committee and supports the production of the Annual Governance Statement. The Group leads on the development and review of all risk related policies, plans and strategies across the Council and oversees and champions the implementation of the Risk Management Strategy and associated action plan.
- 1.4 Following approval of the strategy by Executive, the Risk Management Group has responsibility for the action plan. The actions outlined for the Risk Management Group are as follows:
- Develop an annual programme of operational risk register reviews to ensure all are reviewed every 12 months
 - Further develop project and partnership risk management arrangements and reporting to the RMG
 - Develop and undertake refreshed risk management awareness training for all staff
 - Develop and undertake risk management awareness training for all Members (as part of the induction training following the Elections in May 2023)

2. Details of Proposal or Information

Update of the Risk Management Group (RMG)

Corporate Strategic Risk Register

- 2.1 The Risk Management Group is chaired by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, with the Council's Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer in attendance. Meetings take place quarterly and there is an expectation that all required officers attend. A recent amendment to the Terms of Reference has clarified that, in the absence of an Assistant Director, a substitute (with the ability to make strategic decisions) must attend in their place.
- 2.2 The RMG regularly undertakes a review and gives consideration to the Council's Strategic Risk Register (**Appendix 1**).
- 2.3 During its last meeting, the Risk Management Group was provided with an overview of the work being undertaken to develop the Dragonfly Business Case. It was agreed that this will be a single agenda item for further discussion at the next RMG meeting in April 2023. The Business Case provides examples of risks to be considered and the RMG will consider these, develop a scoring matrix and agree

the wording of a new overarching risk to be inserted into the corporate strategic risk register. This work will then be developed and monitored through the Group.

2.4 In addition to the above, the RMG continues to consider and review the following arising issues and their impact on the Council:

- The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and financial matters arising
- The impact of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper and Bill
- The impact of Local Government Reform including a County Deal for the East Midlands and the development of a Combined Mayoral Authority
- Cyber risks and ransomware attacks
- Ongoing national issues regarding cost of living, fuel and food prices, annual staff pay rise and inflation
- Housing pressures taking into consideration the Homelessness Duty, the impact of Covid and subsequent Section 21 notices being issued and several refugee and asylum dispersal schemes
- The impact of Climate Change

2.5 These issues will remain under constant review, alongside all risks within the Strategic Risk Register. Any additions and/or amendments to the Council's Strategic Risk Register will take place at the appropriate time.

Operational Risk Registers

2.6 In addition to the Corporate Strategic Risk Register, the RMG reviews individual operational risk registers for specific service areas. This is undertaken on a rolling programme to ensure all services have appropriate and up-to-date risk registers in place.

2.7 At its last meeting on 31st January 2023, the Risk management Group also considered the following issues:

- Levelling Up Agenda
- Insurance claims, renewal and training
- Corporate Health and Safety

2.8 Service leads continue to provide presentations to the Group to enable appropriate review and scrutiny to take place.

Corporate Insurance renewal

2.9 The Council's insurance portfolio was reviewed on 1st October 2022 following annual reviews of policies to minimise and mitigate risks. This is normal practice. The Council's Insurance Officer regularly attends the Risk Management Group and also maintains the master copy of the risk registers. Increasing building and other costs have resulted in the expected higher insurance premiums this year.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note this report from the Risk Management Group as part of the Council's robust approach to risk management. The Risk Management Group provides a comprehensive oversight of risk throughout the organisation.
- 3.2 The Risk Management Group has made significant progress in ensuring that risk is effectively managed within the Council. By leading on the development and review of all risk related policies, plans and strategies across the Council, the Group provides consistency of approach and alignment of all service areas in relation to risk management.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 It is good practice for the Council to develop and regularly review its Risk Management Strategy, Strategic Risk Register and associated risk management processes and policies. Given the importance of these arrangements for the overall performance and governance of the Council the alternative of not providing them is rejected.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee notes the report and Strategic Risk Register as set out in **Appendix 1**.

Approved by Councillor Clive Moesby Portfolio Holder for Finance

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no additional financial implications arising out of this report. Whilst, where appropriate, additional mitigation measures have been identified and implemented during the course of preparing the strategic and operational risk registers, the cost of implementing this mitigation is met from within existing service budgets.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no legal or data protection issues arising directly out of this report

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no human resource issues arising directly from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	None directly
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

All

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Strategic Risk Register

Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).