

**South Lakeland District Council**  
**Audit Committee**  
**Thursday, 17 September 2020**  
**Audit Committee Risk Register**

---

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Report from:</b>	Helen Smith – Finance Lead Specialist (Section 151 Officer)
<b>Report Author:</b>	Helen Smith – Finance Lead Specialist (Section 151 Officer)
<b>Wards:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not applicable

---

**1.0 Expected Outcome**

- 1.1 This report is presented to Audit Committee to facilitate the ongoing review of the Audit Committee Risk Register.

**2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee reviews and notes the updated Audit Committee Risk Register.**

**3.0 Background and Proposals**

- 3.1 The Risk Register was last reviewed on 5 December 2019 and has been brought back before the Committee with that meeting's recommendations included.

Appendix 1 shows the risks previously identified for the Audit Committee, renumbered to make them unique, and those which have been archived. These risks have been reviewed and archived during the period the Committee has existed. These will continue to be reviewed annually.

- 3.2 The Committee at its meeting in December 2019 considered its two current risks:

- 3.2.1 **RISK AC 1:** The challenge from the committee is limited due to inexperience. The current likelihood was Very Low following completion of induction training by all Committee members.
- 3.2.2 **RISK AC 2:** This risk regards the ability of the Council to carry out its statutory requirements effectively due to limited resources as a result of the level of funding of local government. This risk is linked to the strategic risk around the Medium Term Financial Plan. The likelihood of this risk had been reduced to reflect the Council's robust financial planning process including the identification and delivery of savings. However, the risks have increased as the current financial situation remains uncertain with the impact of Covid-19, delays to the expected implementation of 75% retention of business rates and the results of the fair funding review and uncertainty about the timing and content of the next government Spending Review.

No changes are proposed to these risks.

- 3.3 A new risk is proposed:

**RISK AC 14:** The effectiveness of the Audit Committee is limited due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes the risk arising from the long gap between meetings of the Audit Committee (from December 2019 to September 2020), the risk arising from virtual meetings and the risk of reduced support to the Committee due to increased service demands elsewhere in the organisation.

3.4 Previous risks that have been considered and archived are:

RISK AC 3: Members identified the risk regarding the statutory timetable for final accounts reporting from the 2017/18 accounts being a month earlier. This risk was archived in July 2019 following meeting the deadlines for 2 financial years.

RISK AC 4: External Auditor appointment. The Council joined the sector-led national procurement exercise run by PSAA and the external auditors were re-appointed in December 2017.

RISK AC 5: Insufficient support/ backup provided to the committee: archived 19/6/08

RISK AC 6: The challenge from the committee is ineffective due to inexperience: archived on the 19/06/08

RISK AC 7: Officers do not recognise the importance of the Audit Committee: archived 10/2/11

RISK AC 8: Members do not recognise the importance of Audit Committee: archived 10/2/11

RISK AC 9: Perception that the Committee is too critical: archived 10/2/11

RISK AC 10: Insufficient capacity from Members to make the Committee effective: archived July 2013

RISK AC 11: Significant changes to the membership In one year: archived 19/6/08, RISK AC 1 replaces this risk.

RISK AC 12 Lack of indicators or measurable outcomes to enable the committee to demonstrate progress and contribution: archived 18/7/13

RISK AC 13 The priority Significant Issues identified by Internal Audit are not addressed.

#### **4.0 Consultation**

4.1 The Audit Committee risk register is considered by Audit Committee twice per year.

#### **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 No alternative options – risks should be reviewed and managed.

#### **6.0 Links to Council Priorities**

6.1 Risk management activity underpins Council Plan activity.

#### **7.0 Implications**

##### **Financial, Resources and Procurement**

7.1 The proposed mitigations can be met within existing budgets.

##### **Human Resources**

7.2 The proposed mitigations can be met within the existing human resources available.

## Legal

7.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No

7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: The review of Audit Committee risks is a corporate governance issue and has no direct health, social, economic or environmental impacts.

## Equality and Diversity

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: The review of Audit Committee risks is a corporate governance issue and has no direct equality or diversity impacts.

## Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
No significant risks associated with this report		

## Contact Officers

Helen Smith, Finance Lead Specialist, 01539 793147, h.smith@southlakeland.gov.uk

## Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Audit Committee Risk Register.

## Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
None	

## Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	03/09/2020	07/09/2020
Section 151 Officer	N/A	N/A: report from S151 officer
Monitoring Officer	03/09/2020	07/09/2020
CMT	N/A	N/A

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	Report author
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	17/09/2020
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A