

South Lakeland District Council
Audit Committee
29 July 2021
Risk Management Update

Portfolio: Councillor Jonathan Brook - Leader and Promoting South Lakeland
Report from: Simon McVey - Operational Lead Support Services
Report Author: John Davies – Case Management Support Services
Wards: (All Wards);
Forward Plan: Not applicable

Links to Council Plan Priorities:

Risk Management underpins service delivery and provides good value for money. Risk Management supports the delivery of all four Council Plan Priorities:

- Working across boundaries
 - Delivering a balanced community
 - A fairer South Lakeland
 - Addressing the climate emergency
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1.0 Expected Outcome and Measures of Success

It is expected that Audit Committee will be updated with the Strategic Risk Register, including the continuous and active management of the risks. This report is provided in line with Audit Committee Work Programme.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee note the Strategic Risk Register in appendix 1 of this report

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 Risk Management is a vital organisational control and is a key part of the Council's governance arrangements. The Council has a continuous focus on risk management in terms of prioritisation of activity towards service delivery and also responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

3.2 The Strategic Risk Register contains all those risks above and below the line of risk tolerance.

3.3 Risk Owners attend Audit Committee to support discussion and queries on the risks and their mitigations.

3.4 All risks above the line of tolerance have mitigations listed. These mitigations are designed to reduce the risks in terms of likelihood or impact or both.

3.5 The aim of mitigations is to reduce a risk from the current position on the risk matrix to the target position.

- 3.6 A risk should reach its target position by the target date. For a risk to be managed on schedule the mitigations must be implemented by their due dates. Not completing mitigations on time places a risk in exception.
- 3.7 Risks are highlighted with exception status as part of quarterly performance reporting arrangements. A risk is only removed from the register (archived) if there is no longer any risk. Please see the Risk Register at appendix 1.
- 3.8 Audit Committee of 23 April 2015, Item AUD/55 required sight of the full register to satisfy the committee that strategic risks are being managed.
- 3.9 Prior to the onset of Covid-19 the review of the Strategic Risks for Quarter 3 2019/20 found that 33% of risks were positioned above tolerance. During the onset of Covid-19 the Quarter 4 2019/20 review found that 65% of risks were above tolerance. The review this Quarter 1 2021/22 shows that 38% of risks are now positioned above tolerance - a significant improvement and reduction in risk when compared to the onset of Covid-19. The Council is continually reviewing and mitigating against these risks.

4.0 Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Strategic Risks Register Quarter 1 2021/22

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed by Corporate Management Team each quarter as part of quarterly performance monitoring and reporting arrangements and the review informs this report.

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 No alternative options – the Audit Committee requires that risk management arrangements are effective.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 There are no financial or resource implications in updating Audit Committee on recent risk activity. However, many of the risks identified relate to financial issues and are considered as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, budget preparation and monitoring process.

Human Resources

- 7.2 There are no human resource implications in updating Audit Committee on risk activity.

Legal

- 7.3 There are no legal implications in updating Audit Committee on recent risk activity.

Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment

- 7.4 There are no Health and sustainability implications associated with this report. Risk Management supports the delivery of all Council Plan Priorities and has a positive impact on organisational objectives.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.5 There are no Equality and Diversity implications associated with the update in this report. Risk management supports Equality and Diversity needs.

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
That actions to mitigate the strategic risks are not met	The risks are not reduced or increase and impact on the Council's delivery against budgets/services	Risk mitigations are monitored as part of quarterly performance monitoring arrangements and appropriate action taken to reduce risks.
That risks are not captured or kept under review	Risks are not up to date or monitored leading to impact on service delivery	Risks are reviewed each quarter by Corporate Management Team as part of quarterly performance reporting arrangements.

Contact Officers

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Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Previous Audit Committee Risk Management Update reports	Previous Audit Committee reports on SLDC Website
Previous Cabinet Council Plan Performance Monitoring reports with Strategic Risks Register	Previous Cabinet reports on SLDC Website

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	29/06/21	15/07/21
Section 151 Officer	29/06/21	15/07/21
Monitoring Officer	29/06/21	12/07/21
CMT	15/07/21	15/07/21

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	29/06/21
Human Resources Lead Specialist	29/06/21
Communications Team	29/06/21
Leader	12/07/21
Committee Chairman	
Portfolio Holder	
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	29/07/21
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A