

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2021

Report Title	RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE			
Purpose of Report	To update the Committee on the review of Risk Management Arrangements and give an oversight of the Corporate Risk Register			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to note: a. The progress on the Risk Management Review b. The Current Corporate Risk Register at Appendix A			
Consultation and Feedback	Chair and Vice-Chair of Audit and Standards Committee			
Report Author	Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources Tel: Email: andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	No alternative options at the current stage			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix A – Current Corporate Risk Register			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Stroud District Council is committed to securing effective risk management as part of its responsibility to deliver effective public services within its district.
- 1.2 The Council has a well-established Risk Management Framework including the Risk Management Policy Statement and Strategy, that includes the three primary objectives of Risk Management. This is backed up a Risk Management toolkit available for Officers and committees to help them effectively describe, assess, monitor and ultimately manage the various risks which the Council faces in its work.
- 1.3 The Council currently uses a piece of software called Excelsis as a performance management and risk management tool. Corporate and service risks are managed through this platform.
- 1.4 In light of its significance to the Committee, Risk Management is a standing item for the Audit and Standards Committee

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The Policy Framework was due for a review in 2020 and a report has been commissioned through Audit and Risk Assurance (ARA) to provide guidance and recommendations as to how develop the risk management processes within the Council. This will include the arrangements for effective oversight of risk, and risk management processes by elected members.
- 2.2 As part of the improvements to the member hub Excelsis is no longer able to be viewed directly by elected members. As a result of this, and also the creation of a new performance management framework to be considered by Strategy and Resources Committee, it is now appropriate to review the system in place to determine whether it meets the requirements of the Council. A procurement exercise is to be carried out in early 2022.
- 2.3 The new Council Plan was approved in October 2021. This therefore represents an ideal time to review risk management practices. The Council Plan has new projects which will require risk assessment and appropriate risk mitigation and reporting. Any such additional measures as may be required by plan activities must be carried out against the background of an up to date risk management framework.
- 2.4 The report from ARA is expected in late 2021 or possibly early 2022. Once the recommendations have been considered these will be shared with the Audit and Standards Committee at the earliest possible opportunity. This will include an action plan to build on any recommendations made within the report.
- 2.5 When considering enhancements to risk management processes the relationship with the Audit and Standards Committee will be paramount. As the Committee for oversight of risk management it is vital the members are given the information which is relevant and timely in order for them to undertake that role.
- 2.6 A particular area of focus for the Committee is to build the level of assurance that is received through risk management arrangements. Increasing the visibility of risks, and risk management will allow greater scrutiny from the committee. This could include, where necessary, reports, analysis and deeper discussion on a particular risk or set of risks.
- 2.7 At that stage before the results of the review are known it is still necessary to give an appropriate focus to corporate risks. Therefore, the current corporate risk register is included for members information at Appendix A. All of these risks have been reviewed and updated by officers within appropriate timescales.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Risk Management must remain an integral activity and embodied effectively within service delivery at Stroud District Council. The review which has been commissioned will be the starting point for further improvements to the established process. Any such improvement will be bolstered by the creation of the new Council Plan and a review of the software system used for risk management. A full report will be brought back before the Audit and Standards Committee in 2022.

3.2 The Corporate Risk register at Appendix A reflects the latest evaluation of the major cross-cutting risks affecting the Council. It does include service specific risk factors.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this decision.

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4.2 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from the report and/or its recommendations.

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4.3 Equality Implications

An EIA is not required because there are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.