

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2022

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Risk Management Update</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To update the Committee on the review of Risk Management Arrangements and give an oversight of the Corporate Risk Register.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES to Note:</b> <b>a) The progress on the Risk Management Review</b> <b>b) The Current Corporate Risk Register at Appendix A</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Chair and Vice-Chair of Audit and Standards Committee			
<b>Report Author</b>	Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources Email: <a href="mailto:andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk">andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk</a>			
<b>Options</b>	No alternative options at the current stage			
<b>Background Papers</b>	None			
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A - Current Corporate Risk Register			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	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 As has been previously reported, the Policy Framework was due for a review in 2020 and a report has been commissioned through Audit and Risk Assurance (ARA) to provide an assessment on the current position and recommendations for the future.

- 2.2 A draft copy of this report was received in January and management are now reviewing the findings and working towards a final report version. A review meeting has been held with the auditor and consideration is now being made of the points raised.
- 2.3 The report considers not only the risk management procedures that we have in place but also how effectively these are put into practice across the Council. It is likely to be the latter that needs most attention and this will be addressed in the action plan.
- 2.4 Although the deadlines for Committee publication have not allowed it to be submitted to this meeting it can now be confirmed that the final version of the report, along with an action plan for changes and improvements will be considered by the Audit and Standards Committee in April 2022.
- 2.5 With regards to the performance and risk software package a number of demonstrations from suppliers have been received and a full procurement process is expected to get underway shortly. Again, progress will be reported to the next Audit and Standards Committee.
- 2.6 The final report will also consider the role of members in the process and again actions will be put in place to address any of the recommendations made.
- 2.7 At that stage before the report has been finalised 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 with appropriate timescales. It should be noted that this risk register still uses the existing processes and software and is likely to develop in the coming months.

### **3. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **3.1 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this decision.

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#### **3.2 Legal Implications**

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

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#### **3.3 Equality Implications**

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

#### **3.4 Environmental Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.