

Audit and Governance Committee

17 January 2022

Risk Management Update

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Executive Director: J Mair, Corporate Director, Legal & Democratic

Report Author: David Trotter
Title: Risk and Resilience Officer
Tel: 01305 228692
Email: david.trotter@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Author: Marc Eyre
Title: Service Manager for Assurance
Tel: 01305 224358
Email: marc.eyre@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation: That Audit and Governance Committee:

- i) note and review the key risks identified in the corporate and service risk registers.
- ii) agree the proposal that future quarterly reporting includes updates on emergency planning and information compliance.

Reason for Recommendation: To ensure that the Council's risk management methodologies remain current, proportionate, and effective in enabling risk informed decisions to be made.

1. Executive Summary

The continual development and promotion of risk management will ensure that Dorset Council remains well placed to demonstrate that objective and informed decisions are taken.

Strategic risk management is owned by the Senior Leadership Team, with an agreed risk management policy statement setting out the Council's commitment. There are now ten strategic risk themes informed by operational service level risks owned by Heads of Service and Service Managers. The principles of the Council's strategy is to be "risk aware" and not "risk averse", with our risk management arrangements informing our decision-making processes.

Current Risk Themes	
Communities	Political & Leadership
Compliance	Safeguarding
Digital & Technology	Service Delivery
Finance	Transformation
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	Workforce

Councillors can view the risks by theme from [this link](#).

At the September meeting, there was a discussion around emergency planning/response and how the Committee can receive assurance over the arrangements in place and lessons that are learnt from incidents. As emergency planning sits within the remit of the Service Manager for Assurance, alongside risk management, it is proposed that this quarterly risk management update extends to include key emergency planning messages. Information compliance also sits within Assurance, so similarly it is suggested that a compliance appendix should accompany this report in future.

2. Financial Implications

No budget implications specifically, although unmanaged risks may pose a threat to the Council's financial stability. Identified risk improvement measures may also have direct budget implications, each of which need to be subject to a cost/benefit analysis prior to implementation.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Health, safety, and wellbeing is identified as one of our corporate risk themes.

4. Climate implications

There are a few identified risks within the risk registers that relate to climate change and the implications.

5. Other Implications

None

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

- Current Risk: HIGH
- Residual Risk: HIGH

The risk level is identified as High as Appendix B provides an update on those High-level risks which are currently identified within the Corporate Risk Register

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

Considering equalities issues is a key aspect of good governance, but there are no equalities issues arising directly from this report.

8. Appendices

Appendix A – Summary of Extreme and High-Level Risks

9. Background Papers

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.