

East Herts Council Report

Performance, Audit and Governance Oversight Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 May 2020

Report by: Bob Palmer, Head of Strategic Finance and Property

Report title: Annual review of Strategic Risk Register

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

- (a) The Strategic Risk Register be reviewed and officers advised of amendments and / or additions.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 This report proposes the content of the Strategic Risk Register for 2020/21.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed annually by this committee and by Leadership Team. (The review by Leadership Team took place on 3 February 2020 and content was further updated on 27 April 2020.)
- 2.2 This report was originally prepared for the meeting on 17 March 2020 that had to be postponed. The content has now been updated given the coronavirus pandemic and officers have also provided an additional summary of controls as explained at 4.2.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 Public services are facing unprecedented challenges and the effective management of risk is needed more than ever. Our risk-managed approach to decision making will help the council achieve objectives and deliver services more efficiently.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 Risk monitoring has been scaled back over recent years but there is an appetite to increase monitoring and participation.
- 4.2 Quarterly monitoring of the Strategic Risk Register will resume in 2020/21 with the register being updated and approved by Leadership Team before submission to Performance, Audit and Governance Oversight Committee. However given the exceptional circumstances experienced at present, Officers have compiled a summary of controls introduced or planned. This position statement is accurate at 30 April 2020 and represents no particular financial quarter.
- 4.3 The highest level corporate, service and project risks will also be monitored quarterly by Leadership Team but not committees, although Members will be able to view these risks on Pentana Performance. Given workloads experienced at present there will be a delay collating operational risk registers.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 Embedding risk management produces many benefits for the Council which are documented within the Risk Management Strategy also presented at this meeting.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 As detailed in 2.1, Leadership Team proposed the content of the register in February 2020. Senior Managers were also consulted in advance.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

Risk management can provide protection of budgets from unexpected losses. Better governance can be demonstrated and the annual audit plan is risk based.

The 'resources' item within the Strategic Risk Register deals with financial pressures and several other entries will have financial impacts.

Health and Safety

None specific but risk management processes can provide a safer environment across the District and all services for the benefit of the public, staff and our contractors.

Health and safety will be an operational risk monitored by Leadership Team.

Human Resources

The fourth item within the Strategic Risk Register details the risk of not having the capacity or skills to deliver services, staff recruitment and retention, succession planning etc.

Human Rights

No

Legal

One strategic risk specifically concerns legislation and several other risks touch on legal matters.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 Please see the Strategic Risk Register at appendix 1.

Contact Member

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