

East Herts Council Report

Audit and Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 17 November 2020

Report by: Steven Linnett, Head of Strategic Finance and Property

Report title: Strategic Risk Monitoring – 2020 21 Quarter Two

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

RECOMMENDATION FOR AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

- (a) **The Strategic Risk Register be reviewed and officers advised of any further action that could be taken to manage risk.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 Quarterly monitoring of the Strategic Risk Register resumed in 2020/21 and this report details the controls introduced during quarter two.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Audit and Governance Committee received a report on 22 September 2020 detailing the controls implemented in quarter one and those planned for future.

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.

3.2 The content of the Strategic Risk Register has been considered by members of Leadership team and updated for quarter two.

4.0 Options

4.1 At the meeting on 22 September Members asked for the risk register to be presented in a tracked change format at this meeting. Please see appendix 1. A clean version is also provided at appendix 2.

4.2 Members will note that there has been minimal change to descriptions. Scores remains unchanged with the exception of item 3, the performance, resilience and security of IT systems. Given enhanced cybersecurity the Deputy Chief Executive has reduced both the likelihood and impact scores. (The scoring matrix is included at the foot of the register.)

5.0 Risks

5.1 Embedding risk management produces many benefits for the Council which are documented within the Risk Management Strategy presented at May's meeting.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1 Due to the lack of a Leadership Team meeting ahead of the committee report deadline the register has been updated and circulated electronically.

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.

Compliance reports are submitted by the Health and Safety Officer to Safety Committee, Leadership Team, Human Resources Committee and Executive.

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.

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