

Report to Audit Committee

Subject: Corporate Risk Management Review Quarter 1 2025/26

Date: 17th September 2025

Author: Chief Finance and Section 151 Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

To update members of the Audit Committee on the current level of assurance that can be provided against each corporate risk.

Recommendations:

That Members:

- Note the current risk level and actions identified within the Corporate Risk Register.

2. Background

The current Risk Management Strategy & Framework was approved and adopted by Cabinet on 28 March 2024. Following adoption of the new framework, a project has been underway to simplify the process of risk review and management by using the Council's performance management system, Ideagen to track risk.

All Assistant Directors and Senior Managers have now received training and individual workshop sessions on the content of the new Risk Management Framework and have completed a review of departmental risks in the new Ideagen system. All risks are scored using the new scoring matrix in the framework (appendix 2) and all scores have been provided to show the gross risk (risk level at it's highest level without controls), the residual risk (the current risk score with controls) against the risk appetite score of the Council which is currently moderate, as approved within the framework.

As part of risk review, where departmental risks increase to red this is likely to impact on the overall corporate risk linked to that departmental risk.

The risk framework sets out the context on how risks are to be managed. It defines the key role for the Audit Committee as providing independent assurance to the Council with regard to the effectiveness of the risk management framework and the associated control environment. This includes the monitoring of the framework and ensuring the implementation of all audit actions.

3. Corporate Risk Register

The Corporate Risk Register is a key enabler of the Strategy and Framework and provides assurance on the key risks identified as corporate risks. All risks are now monitored through the Council's Corporate Risk Board which meets every other month. Any significant risk changes raised through the board and flagged in departmental registers are then highlighted to Senior Leadership Team to determine any mitigatory actions.

In quarter 1 there has been several changes to risk levels across the 13 corporate risks. The full details are included on the scorecard at Appendix 1.

There has been an increase in risk 2 Capacity, Risk 6 Reputation and risk 12 Service Standards performance. The increase in these risk levels link to issues within waste services where increased sickness levels and management changes which left a temporary shortfall in managerial capacity have impacted on performance. There have been a number of resulting complaints and this has been highlighted through quarter 1 performance reports to Cabinet. A number of actions are in place to address issues in the service and the new management structure is now fully recruited to. There is currently a review of the absence management policy due to be considered by Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee late in the Autumn.

There has been a decrease in risk level on risk 3 Health and Safety at Work as a result of a thorough risk review within parks which has lowered the risk level from 9-6 combined with capacity improving within the health and safety team. There has also been a reduction in risk around contractual partnerships now that a new Procurement Manager and shared service provider have been appointed to support procurement. Finally, there has been a reduction in risk level from 6-4 in relation to projects due to improved project reporting systems and good performance on projects reported in Q1.

The Council's risk appetite is moderate, ideally all risks should be yellow or below, it is however accepted that the Council may take a higher tolerance to risk in some areas versus the reward, this decision is taken on a case by case basis.

The Corporate Risk Register and supporting comments as at the end of June 2025 are appended to this report, and this includes a summary of all control gaps identified on the Council's Corporate Risk Register and any actions added to reduce the risk level further.

4. Financial Implications

None arising directly from this report.

5. Legal Implications

None arising directly from this report, the report is to provide reporting, in line with the Council's Risk Management Framework which is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

6. Equalities Implications

None arising directly from this report, although EIA of all risks should be considered as part of any actions identified and controls in place.

7. Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

None arising directly from this report, although Carbon Management forms part of the Environment category on the Corporate Risk Register.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Corporate Risk Register Monitoring – Quarter 1, period ending 30 June 2025

Appendix 2 - Risk Management Scoring Matrix

Appendix 3 – Risk Definitions

Statutory Officer Approval

Approved by: Chief Financial Officer
Date: 8 September 2025

Approved by: Monitoring Officer
Date: 8 September 2025

