

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

meeting date: 17 APRIL 2024
title: STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER – BI-ANNUAL REVIEW
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER


1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Accounts and Audit Committee with details of the strategic risk management activity that has taken place between November 2023 and March 2024.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has recognised that risk management is a process that helps ensure the successful delivery of the Corporate Strategy and strategic aims. As per the Accounts & Audit Committee terms of reference, the role of members is to '*oversee and then monitor the development and implementation of a comprehensive approach to Risk Management*'. To this end, Officers have reviewed the Strategic Risk Register to ensure that risks and subsequent actions are identified, monitored and reported effectively, and to a level determined as acceptable by the Corporate Management Team (CMT).
- 2.2 The current Strategic Risk Register contains 16 open risks as at March 2024 (as outlined in Annex A). These are risks affecting the delivery of the Corporate Strategy rather than those encountered in the everyday work of managers and staff.
- 2.3 As at March 2024, the Council's highest strategic risks (*and relevant residual risk score*) continue to be:
- **Risk Ref 1** - Data loss, disruption and/ or damage to reputation due to a cyber-attack (*residual risk score: 12*).
 - **Risk Ref 9** - High staff turnover, loss of knowledge and skills resulting in reduced resilience (*residual risk score:12*).
 - **Risk Ref 10** – Failure to deliver the Council's Climate Change Strategy to reduce carbon emissions; adversely affecting the natural environment (*residual risk score:12*).
 - **Risk Ref 12** – Failure to deliver new Local Plan (*residual risk score:12*).
 - **Risk Ref 16** - Failure to identify and embed legislative requirements due to lack of/ outdated policies and procedures (*residual risk score 12*).
- 2.4 The following activity has taken place during the period November 2023 to March 2024:

Revised risk scores

<u>Risk Ref</u>	<u>Risk Description</u>	<u>Update Position – March 2024</u>	<u>Movement</u>
13	Failure to meet requirements of the Equalities legislation.	Digital Learning platform has been purchased and will launch in April 2024.	12 to 9 

New / Closed risks

- None.

3 GOVERNANCE ISSUES

3.1 All Officers and Members have an individual responsibility for the management of risk. The Risk Management Policy outlined these responsibilities, including Council and Committee duties. Each risk has not only been assigned individual risk owners, but also an appropriate service committee who can challenge decisions made by officers. These committees would then provide assurance to the Accounts & Audit Committee over the management of risks and priorities.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Committee is asked to note the risk management activity that has occurred during the period.

INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND

AA7-24/RP/AC
17 APRIL 2024

Risk Description			Inherent Risk Score			Original Residual Risk Score (APRIL 2023)			Current Residual Risk Score (OCTOBER 2023)			Current Residual Risk Score (MARCH 2024)			Change in Risk Score (since last review)	Target Score	Original Target date	Responsible Officer	Responsible Director	Service Committee
Risk #	Risk Theme	Inherent Risk Description (prior to controls in place)	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating						
Goal 1			<i>To continue to be a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.</i>																	
SRR001	Cyber	Data loss, disruption and/ or damage to reputation due to a cyber attack.	4	5	20	3	4	12	3	4	12	3	4	12	↔	8	31/03/2024	Head of Financial Services	Director of Resources	Policy & Finance
SRR002	Financial	Inability to set an affordable and sustainable budget over the short to medium-term.	3	5	15	2	3	6	2	3	6	2	3	6	↔	6	30/09/2024	Head of Financial Services	Director of Resources	Policy & Finance
SRR003	Fraud	Heightened levels of fraud, including cyber fraud, due to pressures in the current economic climate.	2	4	8	1	3	3	1	3	3	1	3	3	↔	3	30/09/2024	Head of Financial Services	Director of Resources	Accounts & Audit
SRR004	Safeguarding	Failure of the Council to embed appropriate safeguarding arrangements.	3	5	15	2	5	10	2	5	10	2	5	10	↔	5	30/06/2024	Head of Cultural & Leisure Services	Director of Community Services	Community Services
SRR005	Discretionary service provision	Reduced funding resulting in inability to deliver discretionary services.	3	5	15	2	3	6	3	3	9	3	3	9	↔	6	30/09/2024	Head of Financial Services	Director of Resources	All
SRR006	Business Continuity	The Council is unable to ensure the resilience of key operations and business activities due to a lack of robust business continuity plans.	4	5	20	3	3	9	3	3	9	3	3	9	↔	6	31/03/2024	Head of Environmental Health	Chief Executive	Policy & Finance
SRR007	Health & Safety	Death or lifechanging injury due to a lack of robust health and safety processes.	4	5	20	3	3	9	3	3	9	3	3	9	↔	6	31/03/2024	Head of Environmental Health	Chief Executive	Policy & Finance
SRR009	Workforce	High staff turnover, loss of knowledge and skills resulting in reduced resilience.	4	4	16	4	3	12	4	3	12	4	3	12	↔	9	31/03/2024	Head of HR	Director of Resources	Personnel
SRR013	Equality & Diversity	Failure to meet requirements of the Equalities legislation.	4	4	16	3	4	12	3	4	12	3	3	9	↓	6	31/03/2024	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Chief Executive	All
SRR016	Policies	Failure to identify and embed legislative requirements due to lack of/ outdated policies and procedures.	4	4	16	3	3	9	3	3	9	3	3	9	↔	6	31/12/2024	All	CMT	Policy & Finance
Goal 2			<i>Building a strong economy by sustaining a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley</i>																	
SRR015	Partnership working	Partnership working opportunities are not taken advantage of to improve the borough infrastructure.	4	4	16	3	3	9	2	3	6	2	3	6	↔	6	30/06/2024	Head of Strategic Planning and Housing	Director of Economic Development & Planning	Economic Development
SRR011	Delivery of Local Plan	Failure to deliver the Local Plan leading to harm to the borough's environment, heritage assets and communities and missed opportunities for economic and housing growth.	3	4	12	2	3	6	2	3	6	2	3	6	↔	4	31/03/2024	Head of Strategic Planning and Housing	Director of Economic Development & Planning	Planning & Development
SRR012	Delivery of new Local Plan	Failure to deliver new Local Plan.	5	4	20	4	3	12	4	3	12	4	3	12	↔	9	31/12/2024	Head of Strategic Planning and Housing	Director of Economic Development & Planning	Planning & Development
Goal 3			<i>Creating flourishing, healthy and happy communities</i>																	
SRR008	Emergency Planning	Failure to plan and/ or respond to emergency events when they occur.	4	5	20	3	3	9	3	3	9	3	3	9	↔	6	31/03/2024	Head of Environmental Health	Chief Executive	Policy & Finance
SRR014	Engagement	Service/ local economy provision does not match community requirements or expectations.	4	4	16	2	4	8	3	3	9	3	3	9	↔	6	30/06/2024	Head of Strategic Planning and Housing	Director of Economic Development & Planning	Economic Development
Goal 4			<i>Making the Ribble Valley a place we want to be by creating a safer, stronger, greener and cleaner borough</i>																	
SRR010	Climate Change	Failure to deliver the Council's Climate Change Strategy to reduce carbon emissions; adversely affecting the natural environment.	4	4	16	4	3	12	4	3	12	4	3	12	↔	9	30/09/2024	Head of HR	Chief Executive	Policy & Finance