Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter:	Corporate Risk Register
Meeting/Date:	Corporate Governance Committee 29 January 2025
Executive Portfolio:	Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance – Cllr Stephen Ferguson
Report by:	Corporate Director – Finance and Resources
Wards affected:	All

Executive Summary:

This report sets out the work done since the last meeting of the Committee where the Corporate Director gave an oral update about the proposed work to review and revise the Corporate Risk Register facilitated by RSM.

The Committee is

RECOMMENDED

To consider the approach proposed, the emerging content of the corporate risk register and the strategy for the future development of risk management.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report informs the committee of the approach and work undertaken on the Corporate Risk Register.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY

2.1 Effective Risk Management is a critical part of the organisation’s governance. The Risk Register identifies those areas where the Council should take action to mitigate its exposure and informs the annual plan for Internal Audit.

2.2 Presenting the Risk Register to each meeting of the Committee is an integral part of the overall governance process as set out in the Council's Risk Management Strategy

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Prior to the current Corporate Director (S151 Officer) joining the Council in October 2024, the Committee was advised at its meeting in July that she would take a fresh look at corporate risk, the register and how this is presented to the Committee in a meaningful way.

3.2 At the November meeting, the Corporate Director advised orally that following an unsuccessful recruitment exercise to replace the Risk Officer, she had taken the decision to engage support from RSM UK Risk Assurance Services LLP, the firm that provides the risk management software system (4Risk) used by the Council.

3.3 The initial assessment from RSM was that the software in use needed to be updated and that the existing corporate risk register consisting of 109 risks, many of which did not have mitigating actions, did not constitute a meaningful corporate risk register.

3.4 As part of the work facilitated by RSM, work has been done with Management Team to assess the current significant risk for the Council. These are summarised in Appendix 2 for the Committee to comment on for SLT to take account of when looking at the mitigation.

4. KEY IMPACTS

4.1 An up to date corporate risk register enables the organisation to ensure it is focusing on the key risks and that the work of internal audit is informed by the register. The ensures that internal audit activity can give sound assurance and adds value to the organisation and its corporate governance.

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Attached as an Appendix is the approach and timeline that RSM are facilitating to bring our approach up to date and ensure that there is a robust and realistic approach to risk management.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 Ensuring we are a customer focused and service led Council – to become more business-like and efficient in the way we deliver services. Effective management of corporate risks is a demonstrate of this approach.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 RSM are providing capacity and facilitation to support this activity and during the first quarter of 2025/26, the Corporate Director will assess the resource requirements for this activity and the use of the Risk & Controls Officer post.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – RSM Risk Management Development Plan
Appendix 2 - Emerging Risk Themes

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