

**Public**  
**Key Decision – No**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Corporate Risk Register

**Meeting/Date:** Corporate Governance Committee  
24 September 2025

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Governance &  
Democratic Services  
Cllr Jo Harvey

**Report by:** Corporate Director – Finance and Resources

**Wards affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

This report provides an update on the Corporate Risk Register and presents a heat map relating to the current residual risk scores and a summary report. It provides the Committee with the opportunity to comment on and offer challenge to the Corporate Leadership Team as part of the active management of risks.

The Committee is

### **RECOMMENDED**

To comment on the reports in the appendices and progress with risk management.

## **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report informs the Committee of the approach and work undertaken on the Corporate Risk Register including the latest heat maps relating to the corporate risks.

## **WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY**

- 1.1 Effective Risk Management is a critical part of the organisation's governance. The Corporate Risk Register identifies those areas where the Council should take action to mitigate its exposure and informs the annual plan for Internal Audit.
- 1.2 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.

## **No change on Corporate Risk Register Scores:**

- 1.3 At its July 2025 meeting, the Committee observed that there had been no changes to the scores on the Corporate Risk Register since the previous meeting. The Committee requested that any future instances of unchanged scores be clearly stated in the report, and suggested including a rationale to explain the lack of change
- 1.4 The status of the main corporate risks on the Corporate Risk Register has not changed during the reporting period. This is not unexpected, as the risks recorded at corporate level represent strategic, long-term issues that in most instances will evolve slowly, as opposed to fluctuating week by week. These risks, such as "Failure to Preserve Council's Financial Position", or "Serious Health, Safety, and Well-being Failure by the Council" are inherent to the Council's operating environment.
- 1.5 Whilst mitigations and management actions will develop over time, the underlying risk exposure typically remains relatively stable in the short term. Significant changes to corporate risk rating are more likely to occur following major external events, policy changes, or substantial shifts in internal capacity in resources.
- 1.6 Therefore, the absence of deviation in the scores reflects the strategic nature of the risks, but not a lack of active management. Monitoring through the 4Risk system will ensure that early warning of any material movement will be captured, whilst providing assurance that control actions remain in place.

## **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Risk Work at Huntingdonshire District Council:**

- 1.7 At its meeting in July 2025, the Corporate Governance Committee expressed an interest in risks relating to LGR. As such, management have undertaken to provide an overview of the approach to LGR risk management:

- 1.8 As part of LGR work, Officers have undertaken enterprise-wide review of the risks arising from LGR, and work is ongoing for the identification, control and mitigation of such risk. RSM have been engaged to support on this work, and enterprise-wide work for HDC to pursue to further reduce likelihood of risk occurrence is being taken forward. This work is being led by the Project Management Office in consultation with service areas.

#### **The Democracy, Governance and Risk Workstream**

- 1.9 The Democracy, Governance and Risk workstream was established in early 2025. This workstream is chaired by the Chief Executive of Huntingdonshire District Council and is a collaborative workstream, set up by the 7 Local Authorities within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the Local Government Reorganisation Programme of work.
- 1.10 This workstream sits underneath the existing LGR Chief Executive / Leaders Meetings, and the workstream feeds up into this meeting.
- 1.11 During the proposal phase of LGR, the workstream retains responsibility for ensuring legal compliance within the programme of work, maintaining oversight of key risks and mitigating where necessary and ensuring that we are in alignment with decision-making dates and governance as a region. Two sub-groups have been set up by the workstream to cover data sharing arrangements, and contract mapping. The Workstream has established two subgroups which cover the topics of data sharing arrangements and contract mapping.

#### **KEY IMPACTS**

- 1.12 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 corporate risk register ensures that internal audit activity can give sound assurance and adds value to the organisation and its corporate governance.

#### **WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 1.13 The next steps are for corporate risk owners to review further actions associated with those risks, with appropriate target dates.
- 1.14 Further work will be undertaken with Heads of Service to do the same exercise relating to each service area / function in order to develop service and function risks, scores, maps and actions.

#### **LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

- 1.15 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 demonstration of this approach.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 1.16 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 and Controls Officer post.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – Corporate Risk Summary  
Appendix 2 - Heat Maps

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