

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Maxine O’Mahony - Executive Director, Strategy and Resources
To: Governance and Audit Committee- Thursday 24th June 2021
Author: Ryan Pack - Innovation and Change Business Partner
Subject: Strategic Risk Update
Purpose: To inform the Committee on the status of the Councils’ strategic risks

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the contents of the report are noted

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 This report presents the current status of the Council’s strategic risks as of June 2021. The committee last reviewed the council’s strategic risks at their meeting in on 11th February 2021.

1.2 Strategic risks are captured on the Corporate Dashboard which is available to the Executive Management Team (EMT) and reviewed by EMT and GOLD as required while we remain in COVID response and COVID recovery.

1.3 Strategic risks have been reviewed and updated with responsible members of the Executive Management Team. These cover the over-arching risks that may affect the strategic direction of the council, rather than risks linked to business continuity or those that affect discreet service areas.

1.4 In their nature, strategic risks have been identified as having the potential to cause organisation wide impact and will often cover a number of key services and departments.

1.5 The Council’s risk scoring mechanism is based on a 5x5 matrix and is comparable with best practice in other similar organisations. The risk matrix provides a comprehensive assessment and understanding of risk likelihood and impact. The matrix results in a numerical score which combines the impact of the risk occurring with the likelihood of it happening.

1.6 Risks fall into High, Medium or Low categories depending on their rating.

High	
Medium	
Low	

1.7 Risks are tracked below in a heat map to represent the number of strategic risks currently reported at each score.

1.8 There are 11 risks included within the update report

The risks are made up of the following

Level of identified risk	February 2021	June 2021
High	1	1
Medium	9	9
Low	1	1

COVID-19 remains the highest risk to the council and is currently the only risk to fall within the high category. Structures remain in place to allow the council to monitor the ongoing situation effectively.

The most notable change to the council's strategic risks during this period was a drop in relation to the contracts monitoring risk. This was achieved as the team are once again operating with a senior manager. The risk does however continue to be impacted by COVID-19 despite positive changes around certain contract areas such as leisure.

All other risks have remained at the same assessment level since this report was last taken to the Governance and Audit committee. It should be noted therefore that the situation around financial risk and Cyber security risks (both of which were raised last quarter) remains the same. A breakdown of these can be found in appendix A.

It should be noted that the risk around business continuity plans remains on the risk register despite it now being classed as a low risk. Whilst it was agreed to keep this risk on the register whilst the pandemic continued, the committee may wish to consider downgrading this risk to an operational level.

2.0 **OPTIONS**

2.1 Note the contents of the report and the recommendation and do nothing.

3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

3.1 Not applicable.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 That the Committee is made aware of the Council's strategic risks and understands that they are being managed and mitigated effectively.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

5.1.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no carbon footprint or environmental implications.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

5.2.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct constitutional or legal implications.

5.3 **Contracts**

5.3.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct contract implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

5.4.1 This report contains information on strategic risks relevant to the delivery of the Councils corporate priorities.

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct crime and disorder implications.

5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct equality or human rights implications.

5.7 **Financial**

5.7.1 This report contains information on strategic risks relevant to the Council's budgets and financial management.

5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no health or wellbeing implications.

5.9 **Reputation**

5.9.1 Risks which come to fruition have some reputational consequences. It is the purpose of the risk management strategy to manage potential outcomes by means of control measures.

5.10 **Risk Management**

5.10.1 This report provides details on the Council's strategic risks.

5.11 **Safeguarding**

5.11.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct safeguarding implications as a result of this report.

5.12 **Staffing**

5.12.1 This report contains information on strategic risks relevant to the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.

5.13 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.13.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct implications arising from this report.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 Non applicable

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 EMT: Executive Management team

Background papers:- None

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report: (list appendices below or delete)

Appendix A	Breckland District Council Strategic Risk Register
Appendix B	Breckland District Council Strategic Risk Matrix