

Appendix 1 – Corporate Risk Management Report – March 2021

Background

1. Risk management is a key element of East Cambridgeshire District Council's Code of Governance.
2. The Finance and Assets Committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's Corporate Risk Register.
3. The Risk Management Policy was last reviewed by the Finance and Assets Committee in September 2020 and approved by Full Council in October 2020.
4. Six monthly updates on the Corporate Risk Register are presented to the Finance and Assets Committee.

Corporate risk register updates

5. The Corporate Risk Register has been updated, and is attached at **Appendix 2**.
6. The register includes scores for **inherent** risks (before any mitigating controls are considered) and **residual** risk (after taking account of key controls, which are listed). Any planned actions to further mitigate risks are also shown.
7. The risk appetite is illustrated in the scoring matrix, which is also used to highlight the significance of the residual risks in a "heat map", which accompanies the Corporate Risk Register.

The Corporate Risk Register is reported to the Committee twice per year. Changes to the risk register, and relevant updates, are reported to the Committee for awareness. Current developments are detailed below:

Risk	Description
A6 Council unable to manage impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on Council services	This risk entry has been updated to reflect the work of the recovery group and the strategic co-ordinating group.
B2 Failure to achieve expected levels of development and planning income.	The inherent score has been reduced by amending the likelihood score from 4 to 3, reflecting reduced impact of Covid-19 restrictions on recovery of payments.

Risk	Description
C2 Loss of data or access to ICT systems due to a breach of information security or weaknesses in the IT infrastructure.	The scoring of the current risk has been amended to reflect controls now in place for disaster recovery planning. The likelihood has been reduced from 3 to 2, reflecting the preventative controls implemented. The impact has also been reduced from 4 to 3 on the basis of controls in place to support the Council in securing and accessing back up data and resuming business as usual.
C4 Failure to achieve compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection Act.	This entry has been updated to reflect the findings of the recent Internal Audit review of compliance with Data Protection requirements.
D2 Failure to deliver upon strategic development plans and requirements.	The action for 'Members to determine whether to commence work on a new Local Plan' has been removed following its completion.

Corporate residual risk heat map

8. An updated risk heat map is included at **Appendix 2** which shows the residual risk level for each of the risks. This gives a quick view of where each risk sits in relation to the Council's risk appetite, i.e. there should be no risks with a residual score greater than 15, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Conclusion

9. Risk management processes follow good practice, and are proportionate. These are documented in a Risk Management Policy, with a supporting framework.
10. The Risk Management Group continue to review the Risk Register on a quarterly basis to ensure all risks are recognised and up to date.
11. The Council has a Corporate Risk Register and each risk shows the owner and the key controls, both in place or planned, designed to minimise any impact on the Council and its provision of services to stakeholders.
12. The Risk Management Policy requires managers to keep all risks under review, and the Corporate Risk Register has been updated accordingly.