

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

23 November 2023

Subject:	Strategic Risk Register Update Report
Director:	Interim S151 Officer Brendan Arnold
Contact Officer:	Audit Services and Risk Management Manager Peter Farrow peter_farrow@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







- 1.1 To note and comment on the update to a number of strategic risks that were under review at the time of the last committee meeting in September 2023.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Effective risk management is a key element of good corporate governance, as noted in the council's Code of Corporate Governance, and is essential to the overall performance of the council in meeting its corporate plan objectives. Good risk management will ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively, and that assets and resources are protected against risk in the most efficient way.
- 2.2 The role of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is to help provide assurance to the Council that it has a system of governance, risk management and internal control in place and that the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements continue to inform decision making.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people
	People live well and age well
	Strong resilient communities
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods
	A strong and inclusive economy
	A connected and accessible Sandwell
	The report details the update to a number of the key strategic risks that need to be managed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on the delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives.

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Council's Strategic Risk Register was last presented to the committee at its September 2023 meeting. At that time a small number of risks were being subject to a wider review and it was agreed that an update on these risks would be presented to the November meeting of the committee.
- 4.2 This report brings the committee up to date on those specific risks. Since the last review, the previous risks around the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Allocation, Future Government Policies and Funding Sources and Inflation have been absorbed into one wider Medium Term Financial Strategy, Central Government Funding and Resource Allocation risk, and a new risk has been added regarding the completion of the council's Statement of Accounts.
- 4.3 An update on the risks that were under review at the time of the last committee, including the measures in place to mitigate them are included within Appendix A.



4.4 The full Strategic Risk register will be reported to the next meeting of the committee.

5 Alternative Options

5 Whilst this report does not require a decision and therefore, alternative options do not need to be considered, when measures are being considered for the mitigation of each of the strategic risks, this takes into account any alternative options available.

6 Implications

Resources:	The authority's budget planning process incorporates financial and other resources required to manage the authority's risks and deliver the priorities within the corporate plan.
Legal and Governance:	There are numerous standards applicable to the management of risk within the local authority sector. Included amongst these is guidance from CIPFA/Solace, the British Standards Institute (BSI) and a set of joint standards published by the Institute of Risk Management (IRM), Alarm (The public sector risk management association) and AIRMIC (Association of Risk Managers in Industry and Commerce). Evidence that robust management of the authority's strategic risks is being undertaken demonstrates compliance with these standards.
Risk:	The report itself is an update of certain key risks facing the Council.
Equality:	As a decision is not being sought in this report, it is not necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. However, when measures and decisions are being considered for the mitigation of risks, risk owners must take into account any equalities impact and whether an equalities impact assessment is required. The Council recognises that its workforce is instrumental in assisting the organisation in managing the strategic risks noted within this report (as set out



	in Appendix A) and thereby delivering the Council's priorities. As such, the Council must ensure that equalities implications and how they affect the workforce as well as the wider community are considered and underpin all decisions and risk mitigating actions.
Health and Wellbeing:	The management of risk takes into account where appropriate, the implications on health and wellbeing of our communities.
Social Value	The actions and decisions that are being considered for the mitigation of the strategic risks, will take into account the meeting of the Council's social value commitments.
Climate Change	The actions and decisions that are being considered for the mitigation of the strategic risks, will take into account the meeting of the Council's climate change commitments, and there is a current risk on the register relating to Climate Change.

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Updated risks as at October 2023

8. Background Papers

None

