

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:**

**Title:** Corporate Risk Register

Thursday, 8 May  
2025

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Petrina Lees, Leader of the Council

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**Key decision:**  
No

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## Summary

1. This report is to provide members with an update on the Corporate Risk Register.

## Recommendations

2. Cabinet is requested to note the report.

## Financial Implications

3. None directly linked to this report, although some of the risks included in the Corporate Risk Register may have financial implications.

## Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Risk Management Policy [Risk Management Policy 2024-25](#)

## Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	CMT and ICB
Community Safety	There may be some risks (or elements of the risk) included in the Corporate Risk Register that relate to community safety
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A

Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	N/A
Workforce/Workplace	There may be some risks (or elements of the risk) included in the Corporate Risk Register that impact the workforce

## Situation

6. The Risk Management Policy was approved at Cabinet and presented alongside the Corporate Risk Register (CRR).
7. The Risk Management Policy sets out the processes the Corporate Management Team will follow when managing both operations and corporate risk.
8. The Corporate Management Team review and update the CRR on a quarterly basis. The review is done alongside a review of the service risks and the organisational resilience table to ensure that all risks are captured at the right level.
9. All new high-risk issues/concerns are reported to Cabinet members as soon as they become known or active.
10. The CRR currently has 23 active corporate risks, all the risks are routinely reviewed and updated monthly, or immediately any new information is available which could impact the status of a risk.
11. The previous report presented to the Cabinet in October identified 21 corporate risks, since then three new risks have been added, and two risks have been closed as they have been resolved or closed. A summary of these has been provided below, full details of all current risks are set out in the Corporate Risk Register attached as Appendix 1.

## New risks

### • **Stansted Airport Expansion**

Stansted Airport has published its Sustainable Development Plan, which looks ahead to the airport's operations over the next twenty years. It is likely that the council will receive a planning application to increase passenger numbers. This could impact the anticipated increase of passenger numbers over the next decade from the current cap of 43m to 48-51m. Due to UDC's designated status, this may also be submitted directly to the Planning Inspectorate. The application could be highly contentious and if not handled correctly could lead to a risk of the authority incurring significant costs (£1m+).

- **New Housing Maintenance Contract Mobilisation**

There is a risk that the mobilisation process could fail and may not be as effective as it needs to be which could impact on the following areas: operational failures, financial impact, failing on statutory obligations, impact on customer wellbeing, reputational risks and TUPE concerns.

- **Housing Options Service Failure**

Failure to meet statutory obligations in the delivery of the Housing Options service will leave households at risk of homelessness and may impact on their welfare and safety. The council would be left open to the risk of a legal challenge, reputational damage and potential negative financial impacts.

- **UNSL/Norse Contract Closedown**

There is a risk that the closure of the UNSL/Norse contract may reveal outstanding issues relating to historical service delivery, contractual compliance, and financial reconciliation. An end of contract review and audit is currently being undertaken to assess the quality and completeness of works delivered under the contract. This process may identify challenges that require remediation or, where appropriate, recompense.

### **Risks closed**

- **Annual Accounts**

The council had 5 years of unaudited accounts due to resources within the external audit industry, this was an issue across the majority of Local Authorities.

The Government put a plan in place to manage the backlog of audits and the Council has now published all the prior year audits in line with Government requirements.

- **Contract Management**

The risk related to the negotiation of the contract termination of the council's largest contract, the contract ended on the 31 March 2025 and a new contract is now in place with a new supplier.

12. During the period following the previous formal report presented to Cabinet in October, a new risk was added to the CRR. This risk was informally reported to the members of the Cabinet as soon as officers became aware of the legal proceedings being issued. Details of the risk are

Thurrock Council instigating legal proceedings against APSE for providing what they claimed were 'negligent' valuations regarding their solar farm investment portfolio. As APSE is an unincorporated body any liability would be borne by some or all its member.

Uttlesford District Council joined APSE as a member of the Performance Network (one of over 200 local authority members) and the Energy group (one of over 80 local authority members) in mid-2024. Whilst this is after the date the valuation advice was given, should this go to Court, it is possible that an award would affect some or all the members of APSE at the time of the Court decision rather than at the time of the advice

Thurrock Council also issued a second claim against the businessman behind the venture for £150m in investment funds that the council claims were misused.

13. In February 2025 Thurrock Council confirmed that the courts had approved their application for a stay of proceedings against APSE, with the consent of all parties, whilst it pursues its claim against the businessman. Based on this information the risk has been closed and removed from the register.
14. Other key updates to risks are relate to the New Ways of Working which now reflects the impact of Local Government Re-organisation and to a lesser extent, Devolution. The Medium-Term Financial Plan has also been updated to reflect the current volatility in the financial markets due to the impacts of tariffs imposed by America.

## Risk Analysis

15.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
If the risks are not managed effectively this could lead to operational failure, reputational damage or possible negative financial impacts	2	2	The introduction of the Risk Management Policy and new risk management processes means that the risks are being pro-actively managed and allowing early intervention

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.