

**Agenda Item 5**  
**AGS/03/23**

<b>Report title:</b> Risk Management Update Report	
<b>Report to:</b> Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Paula Clowes, Head of Assurance	
<b>Date:</b> 30 January 2023	<b>For:</b> Noting
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Paula Clowes, Head of Assurance <a href="mailto:paula.clowes@essex.gov.uk">paula.clowes@essex.gov.uk</a> ; Karen Gooch, Risk and Insurance Manager. <a href="mailto:karen.gooch@essex.gov.uk">karen.gooch@essex.gov.uk</a>	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## 1. Everyone's Essex

- 1.1 The Audit Governance and Standards Committee has a key role to maintain oversight and to monitor the effectiveness of the council's risk management arrangements.
- 1.2 Effective risk management is a key component of good Corporate Governance and as such the Council is required to have effective arrangements in place for the management of Risk. All services delivered by the council carry an element of Risk and as such is important that these risks are acknowledged and mitigated as appropriate.
- 1.3 This report provides the Committee with the current position regarding activity in relation to Risk Management and our Strategic Risks. It covers the six months from July to December 2022.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The activity in relation to Risk Management and the Strategic Risk Register be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The purpose of this report (attached at **appendix A**) is to provide Audit Governance and Standards Committee (AGS) with a regular update on the Strategic Risks the Council is currently managing, risk management activity that has taken place across the council and any emerging risks or other risk related matters that may be of interest to the Committee. This report has been introduced to support the Committee in the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to Risk Management oversight and to provide enhanced knowledge of the strategic risks facing the council and the wider operating environment.
- 3.2 As part of our risk management strategy the risks are already reviewed by senior leaders, the Corporate Leadership Team and by individual services. Whilst the risk team ensure that risks are reviewed and can advise and assist,

it is senior leaders and managers who are responsible for ensuring that risks are identified and recorded.

#### **4. Links to our Strategic Ambitions**

4.1 A strategic approach to risk management is critical in ensuring that the Council successfully mitigates its risks in all areas of work to ensure vital services continue to be delivered and available resources reach those most in need and the council remains resilient. This report links to the following aims in the Essex Vision.

- Enjoy life into old age
- Provide an equal foundation for every child
- Strengthen communities through participation
- Develop our County sustainably
- Connect us to each other and the world
- Share prosperity with everyone

4.2 This report links to the following strategic priorities in the emerging Organisational Strategy 'Everyone's Essex':

- A strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
- A high quality environment
- Health wellbeing and independence for all ages
- A good place for children and families to grow

#### **5. Financial implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications as the risk management activity will be met within existing resources.

#### **6. Legal implications**

6.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to have a sound system of internal control which includes a requirement to have adequate arrangements for the management of risk.

#### **7. Equality and Diversity Considerations**

7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

(a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful

- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

7.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

7.3 The equality impact assessment indicates that this strategy will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## **8 List of Appendices**

**Appendix A** - Risk Management Update Report July – December 2022

## **9 List of Background papers**

- CIPFA's Position Statement 2022: Audit committees in local authorities and police
- ECC Risk Management Strategy