



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Audit and Governance Committee

23 November 2020

Report Title:	Update on Risk Management Arrangements
Cabinet Portfolio	Finance and Governance
Cabinet Member	Cllr Martin Bond
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All Wards
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<p>Borough priorities</p> <p>Please mark X for any priority supported by this report</p> <p>NB Use Section 4 - Background Information to explain how each selected priority is supported</p>	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	X
	Promote good health, independence and care across our communities	X
	Create safe and strong communities for our residents	X
	Support a strong, diverse and well-connected local economy	X
	Create a green, thriving and vibrant place to be proud of	X
	Be a modern, efficient and effective Council	X

1. Summary

- 1.1 St. Helens Council, in common with organisations of all types and sizes, faces a range of risks affecting the achievement of its objectives, as set out in its Strategic Risk Register. Risk is defined as “the effect of uncertainty on objectives”.
- 1.2 St. Helens Council has an established and integrated risk management system that:
- i) embeds risk management as an integral part of departmental and corporate planning and decision making;
 - ii) establishes an effective system of risk identification, analysis and control;
 - iii) contributes towards sustainable improvements in service and the achievement of value for money;
 - iv) improves governance;
 - v) improves stakeholder confidence and trust;
 - vi) provides operational effectiveness & efficiency;
 - vii) improves organisational resilience;
 - viii) takes account of the increasing use of partnerships as the mechanism for local service delivery;
 - ix) reduces the number and cost of insurance claims arising; and
 - x) improves its ability to defend claims.
- 1.3 The Council recognises its responsibility to identify, assess and manage the risks it faces in the delivery of its services. This report updates the Audit and Governance Committee on current risk management arrangements and the latest Strategic Risk Register.
- 1.4 This report also provides an overview of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to our future risk and business continuity planning arrangements.

2. Recommendations for Decision

- 2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to:
- i) note the report and the Strategic Risk Register.

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 To provide the Audit and Governance Committee with an update of the Council's risk management arrangements.

4. Background/Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 It is a requirement of the Risk Management Strategy that an annual report is presented to the Audit and Governance Committee to provide an update on activity in relation to the Council's risk management arrangements.

5 Consideration of Alternatives

N/A

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 Risk management arrangements remain fit for purpose.
- 6.2 There are currently 4 risks assessed as High, 3 which are Medium to High, and 1 which is Low to Medium. The Strategic Risk Register identifies the range of mitigating actions and controls which are required to minimise the impact and likelihood of the risks occurring.

7. Wider Impacts and Implications

- 7.1 Significant impact on a range of Council services across all directorates.

8. Background papers

- i) BS:31100(2011) BSI British Standards: Risk Management – Code of Practice
- ii) Management of Risk: Guidance for Practitioners (2010) Office of Government Commerce
- iii) ISO:31000:2018 Risk Management Principles & Guidelines.
- iv) Risk Management Strategy

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Update on Risk Management Arrangements

Appendix 2 - Strategic Risk Register