

# Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

15 November 2022

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| <b>Subject:</b>         | Corporate Risk Management Strategy  |
| <b>Director:</b>        | Director of Finance<br>Simone Hines   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | Audit Services Business Partner<br>Narinder Phagura<br>Narinder_phagura@sandwell.gov.uk |

## 1 Recommendations








- 1.1 To note and approve the corporate risk management strategy which has been reviewed and updated.

## 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. It 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 ARAC is to 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?



|   |   |
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|   | Best start in life for children and young people<br>People live well and age well   |
|  | Strong resilient communities<br>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods  |
|  | A strong and inclusive economy<br>A connected and accessible Sandwell   |
|  | The report details 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. |
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## 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Risk Management assists an organisation to understand, evaluate and take action on its identified risks with a view to increasing the successful achievement of the organisational objectives and priorities and making efficient use of limited resources. An effective risk management framework across the council will give assurance to all stakeholders that the council's business is conducted based upon informed decision making, is being effectively managed and will help confirm compliance with the council's [Code of Corporate Governance](#).
- 4.2 This Risk Management Strategy as set out in Appendix A, will contribute to the strategic outcomes that make up Vision 2030 and assist in the delivery of the council's Improvement Plan, by ensuring that an effective risk management framework is in place and embedded into the decisions the council makes and the policies, procedures, processes and systems it implements, in delivering both the Improvement Plan actions and Vision 2030.
- 4.3 The key updates to the strategy include:



- Updates to the roles and responsibility which now include reference to the Commissioners and Corporate Transformation Board.
- References to the Council Plan 2021-25 and the Improvement Plan.
- Replacement of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) ‘3 lines of defence’ model with the new IIA ‘3 lines model’.
- Further details on risk appetite.
- Further detail to risk assessment scores and the inclusion of safeguarding/ injury/ life and limb impacts.

## 5 Alternative Options

5.1 The risk management strategy sets out the framework for embedding risk management into key council processes. The identification of risks and the measures that are being considered for the mitigation of each of the risks, will take account of any alternative options available.

## 6 Implications

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| <b>Resources:</b>            | 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.   |
| <b>Legal and Governance:</b> | 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. |
| <b>Risk:</b>                 | The report itself sets out the framework for managing risks across the council.   |
| <b>Equality:</b>             | It is not necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.<br>However, when measures and decisions are being considered for the mitigation of risks, risk owners   |



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|                              | must take into account any equalities impact and whether an equalities impact assessment is required.  |
| <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> | The management of risk takes into account where appropriate, the implications on health and wellbeing of our communities.                                      |
| <b>Social Value</b>          | The actions and decisions that are being considered for the mitigation of risks, will take into account the meeting of the Council's social value commitments. |

## 7. Appendix

Appendix A – Risk Management Strategy

## 8. Background Papers

None

