



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 27th FEBRUARY 2024	AGENDA ITEM NO. 5
REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND GROUP DIRECTOR – FINANCE, DIGITAL AND FRONTLINE SERVICES	STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATE

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Governance and Audit Committee with the latest Strategic Risk Register for the 2023/24 financial year in line with its role to review and scrutinise the Council's risk management arrangements.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the Council's latest Strategic Risk Register (**Appendix 1**) for the 2023/24 financial year.
- 2.2 Review the Strategic Risk Register and determine whether further updates on specific Strategic Risks are required and subsequently reported to the Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To assist the Governance and Audit Committee in discharging its responsibilities in respect of reviewing and scrutinising the Council's risk management arrangements, in line with its Terms of Reference.
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4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Governance and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference states its Statement of Purpose is as follows:

The Governance and Audit Committee is a key component of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's corporate governance. It provides independent and high level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

The purpose of the Governance and Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

- 4.2 In addition, Section C of the Committee's Terms of Reference goes on to identify the following responsibility in respect of the Council's Risk Management arrangements:

Review, scrutinise and issue reports and recommendations on the appropriateness of the Authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements, and providing the opportunity for direct discussion with the auditor(s) on these.

- 4.3 In line with the Committee's Terms of Reference, the [12th October 2023](#) Governance and Audit Committee received a 'Risk Management Strategy and Strategic Risk Register Update' that included the role of the Committee in respect of risk management and the arrangements in place to enable the Committee to discharge its responsibilities in this regard; an updated Risk Management Strategy; and updated Strategic Risk Register as at 30th June 2023.
- 4.4 As part of the above-mentioned update, the Committee's role in reviewing and scrutinising the Council's risk management arrangements included keeping up-to-date with its risk profile and effectiveness of risk management actions via review of the Strategic Risk Register and providing opportunity for Members to request additional information where further assurance is required.

5. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER (2023/24)

- 5.1 The Council's 2023/24 Strategic Risk Register has been reviewed during the year and updates incorporated within quarterly performance reporting arrangements, the latest updates being reported to Cabinet on [20th November 2023](#) and thereafter to the Overview and Scrutiny on [13th December 2023](#).
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5.2 With specific regard to 'keeping up-to-date with the risk profile and the effectiveness of risk management actions' as referenced in paragraph 4.4, the Committee is requested to review the Council's latest Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1) and consider whether it wishes to receive more detailed updates on the arrangements in place to manage specific strategic risks.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

6.1 There are no equality and diversity or socio-economic duty implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 There are no consultation implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE

8.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

9.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1 The Council's risk management arrangements satisfies the requirements placed upon it as set out within:

- Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018 (regulation 4); and
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

11. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES

11.1 The Council's risk management arrangements support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities by helping to identify risks that may adversely impact the achievement of objectives and outcomes.



WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

11.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 identifies a core set of activities that are common to the corporate governance of public bodies where change needs to happen. Risk Management is one of the identified core activities. The Council's risk management arrangements and strategic risk register conform to the requirements placed upon it by the Act.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 The Council's Governance and Audit Committee plays a key role in supporting and challenging the Council's risk management arrangements and providing on-going independent assurance around the adequacy of those arrangements, as set out within its Terms of Reference.

12.2 In line with the Committee's role, that includes, keeping up-to-date with the Council's risk profile and the effectiveness of risk management actions, the Committee is requested to review the Council's latest Strategic Risk Register and consider whether it wishes to receive more detailed updates on the arrangements in place to manage specific strategic risks.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

27th FEBRUARY 2024

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER UPDATE

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Item: 5

Background Papers

None.

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