

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE
Tuesday, 16th February 2021

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance

REPORT TITLE: Strategic Risk Register Report Quarter 3 2020/2021

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the council's latest position on managing its key risks, contained in the Strategic Risk Register (SRR). It also outlines the arrangements put in place by the Council for managing the key risks relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Background

- 2.1 Our Strategic Risk Register is key to safeguarding the organisation and building resilience into our services. At a time when the Council is facing unprecedented challenges, the effective management of risk is needed more than ever. A risk-managed approach to decision making will help us to achieve the well-being objectives in Vision 2025, deliver services more efficiently and using innovative and cost-effective means, and help the Council manage its Covid-19 response and recovery.

2. Advice

- 3.1 To ensure a risk managed approach to decision making and good governance of the Council, it is proposed that Cabinet:
- Review progress to mitigate strategic risks
 - Continue to note the Covid-19 risk register

Review of progress to mitigate Strategic Risks

- 3.2 As at the end of quarter 3 2020-2021, there are 12 risks on the strategic risk register and all strategic risk owners have provided a short summary of progress since last quarter, to give assurance that mitigating actions are being actioned and monitored.
- 3.3 Please see appendix A for full details of the 12 strategic risks, and progress against the mitigating actions identified to control them.

- 3.4 Please see appendix B to view a heat map which presents the results of the quarter 3 risk assessment process visually. It highlights (for the residual risks) that one out of the twelve risks are placed within the 'major' impact category with a probability of almost certain, one is placed within the 'major' impact category with a probability of likely and one is placed within the 'catastrophic' category with a probability of possible.

Escalation of risks and amendments to the Strategic Risk Register

- 3.5 During quarter 3 2020/2021 no risks have been escalated to the Strategic Risk Register. However, Children Services have replaced the risk entitled 'ability to meet the requirements of the MTFs / Retaining grant funding around posts within Children's Services' with the following:

If Children's Services are unable to manage within budget due to: - Market sufficiency for children's placements - Reliance on agency social workers - Inflationary costs and management of pressures - Surge in demand due to COVID-19 - Continuing healthcare protocol being applied correctly and consistently.

- 3.6 Children Services risks have been reviewed and replaced by 5 key risks including one on budget which covers the previous risk. Adult Services and Children and Adults Commissioning have undertaken a similar review. This approach has been agreed by the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director.

Covid-19 risk register

- 3.7 In order to effectively identify and manage risks relating specifically to the Covid-19 pandemic, a separate risk register was created to provide clarity and oversight for Gold and Silver Command. These risks are reviewed and monitored regularly and have been separated into response and recovery risks, using a matrix developed specifically for assessing Covid-19 related risks.
- 3.8 Currently there are 49 risks recorded, 4 of the 49 risks are placed within the 'major' impact category 2 with a probability of likely and 2 almost certain, and another 1 placed within the 'catastrophic' impact category with a probability of possible. The register is still monitored by Gold and Silver Command on a weekly basis.

Risk Management Report

- 3.9 A paper went to Senior Leadership Team on the 18th of November 2021 outlining the Councils response to a recent SWAP Internal audit report on Risk Management. All proposed recommendations, future actions and timeline were agreed.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct resource implications in relation to this report however all risk owners need to consider the resource implications of managing the risk and decide if the best course of action is to tolerate or treat.
- 4.2 The Strategic Risk Register outlines the key risks to the Council's activities, as well as risk to delivery of objectives contained within the Corporate Improvement Plan. There are no direct financial implications from the report although these may arise as new risks are identified on an on-going basis.

The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the comment above, financial implications are identified through the relevant service and are considered through the financial management processes in line with the authorities' financial regulations.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

6. Data Protection

- 6.1 N/A

7. Comment from local member(s)

- 7.1 N/A

8. Integrated Impact Assessment

- 8.1 N/A. The Service Risk Register is not setting out any changes or proposals to service delivery.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet notes the current Strategic Risk Register and is satisfied with progress against mitigating actions for quarter 3.

The recommendation above will ensure:

- **Appropriate understanding and management of strategic risks which could prevent us from achieving our objectives**
- **A risk managed approach to decision making and good governance of the Council**

- **The risk related to Powys residents, services and Council staff as a result of a COVID-19 (Coronavirus) epidemic is monitored and reviewed regularly.**

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