

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET EXECUTIVE
Tuesday, 25th May 2021**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance

REPORT TITLE: Strategic Risk Register Report Quarter 4 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.

2. 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 has faced and is still 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.

3. 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
 - Review progress to mitigate COVID-19 risks

Review of progress to mitigate Strategic Risks

- 3.2 As at the end of quarter 4 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 including the mitigating actions identified to control them and progress reviews.

- 3.4 Please see appendix B to view a heat map which presents the results of the quarter 4 risk assessment process visually. It highlights (for the residual risks) that one out of the twelve risks are placed within the 'moderate' 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 Adults and Children's Services would like to place the following risk on the strategic risk register with an inherent and residual probability of 'almost certain' and impact of 'major':

WCCIS Unreliability - IF the unreliability of WCCIS is not resolved THEN

- Veracity of decision making around adults and children in Powys will be compromised, leading to poor outcomes
- The safeguarding of children and adults in Powys will be compromised
- There will be significant delays in securing time critical packages of care
- Our ability to manage transfers of people from hospital to the community will be compromised
- We will not be able to respond effectively to out of hours emergencies
- There will be delays in making decision and taking action to keep children safe
- Staff morale will be affected further, leading to increased sickness absence and staff leaving

Despite a hardware upgrade on 14th March, WCCIS remains unreliable. This has been an ongoing situation pre and during the COVID-19 pandemic. When WCCIS is unavailable and unreliable we are unable to perform our statutory functions in a timely manner. This has implications for the wellbeing and in some cases, the safety of our residents. The morale of our staff has become seriously affected as a result of the above, with many questioning why we continue to invest in a system that does not support them to do their job.

- 3.6 During quarter 4 2020/2021 Housing Services have amalgamated the risk HO0018 'Compliance in Powys County Council Housing Stock' with risk HO0024 'Failing to meet all applicable statutory requirements providing for the health and safety of the occupants in the home'. As such HO0018 has been closed and replaced with HO0024 on the strategic risk register with a residual (ie current) risk profile of Medium (score of 6).

The Compliance One Hundred project has responsibility for driving forward all elements of compliance across Housing Services, with a focus on health, safety and well-being with regard to the use of properties as homes. The revision to the risk better reflects this evolution of our compliance work.

- 3.7 Also Education has replaced ED0023 'The council fails to make the necessary improvements in response to Estyn recommendations' with COVID0058 'Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) for Estyn' in an effort to streamline the services risks, reducing duplication and thus enabling them to have oversight of all significant risks in one place. This approach has been agreed by the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director however readers should be mindful that this risk uses the matrix developed specifically for assessing COVID-19 related risks (see point 3.8 below).

COVID-19 risk register

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Currently there are 26 risks recorded on the COVID-19 risk register, a drop of 22 since last quarter. 1 of the 26 risks is placed within the 'major' impact category with a probability of likely, 1 is placed in the catastrophic with a probability of likely and 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. Please see appendix C for full details of the 26 risks, and progress against the mitigating actions identified to control them.

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 and COVID-19 Risk Registers and is satisfied with progress against mitigating actions for quarter 4.

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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