

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Audit and Standards Committee
Date	-	18 May 2020
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	Annual Risk Management Update

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

Assistant Director Resources: Robin Vennard

Introduction

1. This update report for Members covers the progress in Risk Management during 2019/20. Risk refers to the uncertainty that surrounds future events and outcomes. It is essential that the Council has a strong approach to Risk Management, particularly with the current environment of substantial financial and resource pressures.

Progress

2. The issue of Risk Management is now routinely reviewed every six months by the Strategic Management Team (SMT) and Heads of Service. This year has been dominated in preparing for Brexit and the uncertainties that has brought both in terms of the Council's operations and the general public. The Corporate Risk Framework and associated plans continue to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The Council is supported by its insurers in providing training and guidance to staff.

Current Risk Register

3. The Corporate Risk Framework has been updated during this year and is attached at Appendix A. This is a live document and the key changes have been:
 - The adjustment of some of the risk ratings in the light of new information.
 - Pandemic – updated actions due to Corona virus
 - Spending Review and Business Rate reset by Government – highlighting the risk to the Council's finances as a result of the major review by the Government which could see a further erosion of the Council's finances.
 - Property Investments – highlighting the risks inherent in property investment including the risk of Government intervention.
 - Delivering Savings and Income targets as set out in Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – highlighting the risk of failing to identify and deliver the income and savings targets set out in the MTFP.
 - Loss of staff and recruitment – highlighting the risk to the Council through the loss of key staff through redundancy or due to the financial uncertainty. Also notes the difficulties in recruitment of staff being experienced, particularly as a result of being a rural authority.
 - Major Projects – The Council has a number of major projects to deliver including new leisure centre, new housing and new commercial properties.

It is well placed with experienced and trained officers in place, but there is a risk to project delivery if those resources are no longer available.

Conclusion

4. Risk Management has been progressed throughout this year. We will continue to look at emerging and changing risks, exercise potential risks and update the register where appropriate.

Malcolm Johnston
Executive Director

Risk Assessment Statement

No risks are foreseen with this report, which updates on progress. However, the failure to review and update the risk environment would be a significant failing on the part of the Council.