

## Rother District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Audit and Standards Committee
<b>Date:</b>	27 September 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Risk Management Update
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director Resources
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To update Members on the issues in Risk Management affecting the Council during 2021/22.
<b>Officer Recommendation(s):</b>	It be <b>RESOLVED</b> : That the report be noted.

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### Introduction

1. This update report for Members covers issues in Risk Management affecting the Council during 2021/22. 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 a global pandemic and ongoing substantial financial pressures.

### COVID–19 Pandemic

2. This year continues to be dominated by dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic both in terms of the Council's operations and the support given to the community. This report does not review the Council's response as this has been previously covered. However, Heads of Service have been consulted on the continued impact of COVID on their service areas and this is shown at Appendix B.

### Corporate Risk Register

3. The Corporate Risk Register (Appendix A) has been reviewed and updated by the Corporate Management Team, including the lead officer, to reflect the new staffing structure. The main changes to the risks are as follows:
  - a) **Spending review (27)** – the overall risk rating has been increased. Having been deferred for two years, the Government are now undertaking their spending review. Given the impact the pandemic has had on public finances, there is an increased likelihood of deteriorating grant settlements over the next three years.
  - b) **Loss of Staff/Recruitment (30)** – Some services continue to struggle to replace staff, such as Planning. This negatively affects service performance and impacts on the remaining staff. Staff retention and recruitment is being considered as part of the corporate staffing restructure. In addition, the Council will make use, where appropriate, of agency staff and outsourcing companies to bring resilience to the service. This is, however, expensive and normally will result in an overspend against existing budgets.
  - c) **Failure of partner public body (33)** – the Council has a number of shared services and other public/voluntary partners. Following on from the

spending review, a new risk has been added to reflect the potential for a failure by a partner public organisation due to the financial pressure on public funding. A partner may have to reduce or withdraw services that the Council make use of or are shared. Mitigations are limited, but it is important particularly for shared services that the inter authority agreement sets out the process for dealing with this scenario.

## Conclusion

- The Council continues to learn the lessons from the continuing pandemic from a risk management perspective. This is, and will continue to be, an on-going process, but Members can be assured that the Council is well placed to deal with the challenges it may face, albeit acknowledging the pressures this could place on business as usual service provision.

## Risk Management

- The failure to review and update the risk environment would be a significant failing on the part of the Council.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	No	Access to Information	No
Sustainability	No	Exempt from publication	No
Risk Management	Yes		

Chief Executive:	Malcolm Johnston
Report Contact Officer:	Robin Vennard
e-mail address:	<a href="mailto:robin.vennard@rother.gov.uk">robin.vennard@rother.gov.uk</a>
Appendices:	None
Relevant Previous Minutes:	N/A
Background Papers:	None
Reference Documents:	None