Rother District Council

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date:	20 March 2023
Title:	Risk Management Update
Report of:	Gary Angell, Audit Manager
Purpose of Report:	To consider the updated Corporate Risk Register and other developments since the last update.
Officer Recommendation(s):	It be **RESOLVED**: That the report be noted.

Introduction

1. This report provides a position update on Risk Management processes and the key strategic risks currently facing the Council.

2. Risk refers to the uncertainty that surrounds future events and outcomes. It is essential that the Council adopts a strong approach to risk management to ensure good governance, especially given the current backdrop of significant financial pressures.

3. The Audit Manager, in his role as Risk Management Coordinator, is currently responsible for facilitating all strategic risk management activity including maintaining the Risk Management Policy and collating and reporting on updates to the Corporate Risk Register. The responsibility for identifying and managing risks, however, remains with Senior Management.

Risk Management Policy

4. A new Risk Management Policy was approved by this Committee in September 2022 (Minute AS22/27 refers).

5. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and the risk appetite statements within it will also need to be revisited and amended each year (where appropriate) to ensure that they continue to meet the Council's requirements.

Corporate Risk Register

6. The Corporate Risk Register (CRR) [Appendix A] has been reviewed and updated by the Corporate Management Team.

7. The format of the risk register has been modified slightly since the last iteration to improve transparency. The changes made include adding columns to record the dates of the current and next review, and a column showing the target score – i.e. the maximum risk appetite score for the specific category of risk. Where the mitigated risk score exceeds the target score then further mitigation should be considered to bring the risk score down to an acceptable level.

8. The issues raised about the content of the CRR at the last Risk Management Update in September 2022 were fed back to officers prior to the latest review. However, no new risks have been added on this occasion, and the risk scores have remained largely unaltered. It should also be noted that there are a few risks which currently exceed their target scores, although some of these may be due to factors beyond the Council's control.

Service Based Risk Registers

9. New Service Plan templates have recently been introduced which require all Heads of Service/Service Managers to record and monitor their operational risks in a risk register. Hopefully, this move will help improve the identification and mitigation of the day to day risks in the different service areas.

Conclusion

10. The CRR has been reviewed and the latest version is included for Members' consideration.

Risk Management

11. The failure to adequately monitor and respond to an ever-changing risk environment could have serious negative consequences for 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		

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Appendices:	A – Corporate Risk Register

Relevant Previous Minutes:	AS22/27 Risk Management Update
Background Papers:	None.
Reference Documents:	None.