SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: **Matthew Hogan, Executive Manager for Growth**

To: **Governance and Audit Committee, March 11th 2021**

Author: **Corey Gooch, Senior Change, Innovation and Performance Business Partner**

Subject: **To provide an update on the councils strategic risk register**

Purpose: **To provide an update to the committee on the progress of the Council's identified strategic risks**

Recommendation(s):

1) That the panel gives consideration to both the covering report and Appendix A, which details the latest assessment of the council's strategic risks

---

1.0 **BACKGROUND**

1.1 This covering report and detailed Appendix A seeks to present to Governance and Audit Committee an overview of the key risks that the council is exposed to, the action taking place to mitigate those risks, and an up to date assessment of their likelihood and impact.

1.2 By their very nature, strategic risks are those that have been identified as having the potential to cause organisational-wide impact and will often cover a number of key services and departments. Strategic risks are captured within the council's risk management system, which is available to the council's management team and is reviewed on a regular basis.

1.3 The report and associated identifies that there are currently 28 recorded strategic risks that the authority is monitoring. These 28 risks are captured, described and scored in a Strategic Risk Register. This register is included in Appendix A for consideration by the Governance and Audit committee.

1.4 In terms of methodology, the Council's risk scoring mechanism is based on a 5x5 matrix and is comparable with best practice in other similar organisations. The risk matrix provides a comprehensive assessment and understanding of risk likelihood and impact. The matrix results in a numerical score which combines the impact of the risk occurring with the likelihood of it happening. The rating for individual risks ranges from highest (red) to lowest (green) with categories in between, depending on their rating, details of likelihood and impact scoring criteria are based on the councils risk management policy and can be found below

1.5 The spread of risk across the 28 recorded in the council's latest Strategic Risk Register, following mitigation by services and the council's management team, is as follows;

Risk level	Number of strategic risks by score (post-mitigation)
High level (Red)	2
Medium (Amber)	20
Low (Green and Yellow)	6

1.6   Overall, the register contained within Appendix 1 demonstrates that strategic risks are being proactively managed by the authority, with a series of mitigations in place to reduce and mitigate impact and likelihood across a number of key areas.

1.7   Within the strategic risk register included in Appendix A, each risk is ascribed a short narrative which seeks to cover the following

- The risk title
- A description of what the risk council entail
- The approach to mitigation

1.8   The risk register is presented for consideration by the Committee. Officers will be available at the meeting of the Committee to answer questions on the content of the register.

1.9   The strategic risk register in Appendix A details a number of changes to risks since the previous quarter, a breakdown of these changes can be found below.

Title	Change since last quarter
Homelessness	▬
Cyber Incident	⬆
Parkwood Leisure Provision	⬆
Regulatory Compliance	⬆
Local Economy	▬
Council Financial Positions	▬
Short term impact on the council of a challenging transition in the UK/EU relationship	▬
Vulnerability risk	⬆
Technology infrastructure failure	▬
Changes in legislation and policy in response to Covid19	▬
Changes to the strategic shared partnership	⬆
Senior Management Capacity	⬆
Performance of PSPS contract	▬
Waste Collections	▬
Reductions in council performance	▬
Retention of staff	▬

Title	Change since last quarter
External Reputation	▬
Capacity to deal with more than one significant incident	⬇
Outsourcing/Service provider failure	▬
Impact of COVID-19 upon the council	▬
COVID-19 Outbreak response	
Safeguarding	▬
Decision Making	▬
Staff Presentation (availability/turning up for work)	▬
Impact of extensive home working	▬
Internal communications breakdown	▬
External communications breakdown	▬
Impact of local government re-organisation	▬

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 **Option 1** - That the contents of the covering report and the strategic risk register, as captured within Appendix A, are noted (recommended)

2.2 **Option 2** – Do Nothing

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To allow the Governance and Audit committee to review the strategic risks that the authority is exposed to, and to evaluate the council's current plan of action in respect of mitigation of each.

4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 To ensure that the identified Strategic Risks are properly monitored and reviewed in accordance with the Corporate Risk Policy.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 **Constitution & Legal**

5.1.1 This report and associated appendix has been prepared within the terms of reference of the Governance and Audit Committee.

5.2 **Corporate Priorities**

5.2.1 The strategic risk register in Appendix 1 presents an assessment of risks that have the potential to impact upon and shape the delivery of the council's corporate priorities.

5.3 **Financial**

5.3.1 There are no specific financial implications associated with the report recommendation. However, the strategic risk register in Appendix 1 presents an assessment of risks that have the potential to impact upon the council's financial circumstances.

5.4 **Reputation**

5.4.1 There are no specific reputation implications associated with the report recommendation. However, the strategic risk register in Appendix 1 presents an assessment of risks that may create reputational risks for the council if not managed and mitigated appropriately.

5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 The strategic risk register contained within Appendix 1 is one of the council's key tools for supporting the authority in managing key strategic risks.

5.6 **Staffing**

5.6.1 The report contains information relating to staffing issues.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 All wards

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

- PMP – Performance Monitoring Panel
- LA – Local Authority
- PSPS – Public Sector Partnerships Services
- SLA's- Service level agreements
- GDPR- General Data Protection Regulations
- CIP- Change, Innovation & Performance

Background papers:-

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post:	Corey Gooch – Senior Change, Innovation & Performance Business Partner
Telephone Number:	07766510458
Email:	corey.gooch@breckland-sholland.gov.uk

Director / Officer who will be attending the Meeting

Name and Post:	Corey Gooch – Senior Change, Innovation & Performance Business Partner

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A   Strategic Risk Register