



## Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Governance and Audit Committee – 6 December 2023

### Corporate Risk Overview - Quarter 2 2023/24

<b>Purpose:</b>	The report presents an overview of the status of council's corporate risks to provide assurance to the Committee that they are being managed in accordance with the council's risk management policy and framework.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Richard Rowlands
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Roach
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officers:</b>	Rhian Millar / Catherine Window
<b>For Information</b>	

#### 1. Background

1.1 This report provides an overview of the status of corporate risks in the Council to give assurance that key risks are being managed and risk management process is being followed.

#### 2. Corporate Risks as at the end of Quarter 2 2023/24

2.1 The following summarises the status of risks recorded in the Corporate Risk Register as at the end of Quarter 2 2023/24.

2.2 There were 5 Red status risks in the Corporate Risk Register as at the end of Q2 2023/24:

- Risk ID 153: Safeguarding.
- Risk ID 159: Financial Control: Medium Term Financial Plan delivery
- Risk ID 222: Digital, Data and Cybersecurity.
- Risk ID 334: Cost of living crisis.
- Risk ID 338. Net Zero 2030 target.

### 2.3 During Quarter 2 2023/24:

- All of the corporate risks were recorded as having been reviewed at least once.
- No new risks were added to the Corporate Risk Register.
- No corporate risks were deactivated.
- No risks were escalated to the Corporate Risk Register.
- No corporate risks were de-escalated from the Corporate Risk Register.
- Two Corporate risks changed their RAG status:
  - Risk ID 94: Pupil attainment and achievement – No RAG to Amber.
  - Risk ID 338: Net Zero 2030 target – Amber to Red.
- Four corporate risks changed their residual risk score:
  - Risk ID 94: Pupil attainment and achievement – no score to score 9.
  - Risk ID 290: Impact of Poverty – score 9 to score 6 to score 9. The score was reduced from 9 to 6 but this was a recording error, which was corrected and returned to 9 during Q2.
  - Risk ID 336: Mandatory training – score 6 to score 4. The score was reduced because there is now confidence that mandatory training is being accurately logged and that the reporting is capturing all entries.
  - Risk ID 338: Net Zero 2030 target – score 9 to score 16. Whilst the intent for Swansea Council to achieve net zero by 2030 very firmly remains, this continues to be a challenging goal. Accordingly, the residual risk score has been elevated within Q2 to reflect several mainly financial factors, including rising costs associated with decarbonising our buildings, costs related to greening our fleet and the associated need for substantial additional subsidy to help meet those costs.

### 2.4 Appendix A presents the risks recorded on the council's Corporate Risk Register as at 30 September 2023. The reports for each risk include the following information:

- *Risk title and description*...to summarize and describe the risk.
- *Risk Identification (ID) number*...to identify and search for the risk in the register.
- *Risk level*...Corporate level risks.
- *Responsible Officer*...the officer responsible for managing the risk.
- *Councillor*...the Councillor whose portfolio the risk relates to.
- *Last update*...when the risk was last updated in the risk register.
- *Inherent Risk*... the level of risk before Control Measures are applied.
- *Historical RAG*...the level of residual risk assigned historically each month over a 12-month period (Red – High; Amber – Medium; Green – Low). The scores will range from 1-very low to 25-very high (calculated as the likelihood score times by the impact score).

- *Current Control Measures*...live actions assigned to control or mitigate the level of risk. *Last update*...the date of the last time the Control Measure was updated in the risk register. *Risk response*...how the risk is controlled. *Projected Completion*...the date the Control Measure is expected to be implemented.
- *Current impact*...monthly assessment on the level of impact (1 = low; 5 = very high) should the risk come into effect. The graph shows the historical level of impact assigned each month over a 12-month period.
- *Current likelihood*...monthly assessment on how likely the risk is to come into effect (1 = low; 5 = very high). The graph shows the historical level of likelihood assigned each month over a 12-month period.

### **3. Review of Corporate Risk Management Framework.**

- 3.1 The Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework was last reviewed in 2017. The Council has made a lot of progress since then improving its risk management arrangements.
- 3.2 Another review is timely to ensure that the Council continues to improve and is delivering best practice through its risk management processes and procedures. This review commenced with Cabinet and CMT recently undertaking risk management training provided by APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence); an assessment of good practice is currently underway.
- 3.3 It is expected that this review will be completed and recommendations implemented by the end of the financial year. The scope of the review is presented at Appendix B. The Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee will be consulted as part of the review.

### **4. Internal Control Environment and Risk Reporting**

- 4.1 The Governance & Audit Committee Chair had requested that Directors attend each quarter on a rotational basis and provide the Committee with presentations regarding the internal control environment, including risk management; this report providing a Corporate Risk overview will coincide with Director's attendance each quarter.

### **5. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the ‘well-being goals’.

5.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5.1.3 A Screening form was completed. This report is a ‘for information’ report and so is not relevant for an IIA.

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications.

**Background papers:** *None*

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Corporate Risks as of 30 September 2023.

Appendix B – Risk management Review – terms of reference.

Appendix C – IIA Screening Form.