Policy & Resources Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	28th September 2022
Report Title	Risk Management Update
EMT Lead	Lisa Fillery – Director of Resources
Head of Service	Alison Blake – Interim Head of Audit
Lead Officer	Alison Blake – Interim Head of Audit
Classification	**Open**
Recommendations	1. To consider the Council's corporate risks, gaining assurance that key risks are being appropriately managed.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 Reporting of risk information is key to ensuring risks are being appropriately identified and managed and, ultimately, to ensuring the Council achieves its priorities. This report sets out the Council's corporate risks which have been reviewed and updated in light of the new Risk Management Framework, progress on implementing planned controls and other changes surrounding the risk.

1.2 The purpose of the report is to provide Members of Policy & Resources Committee with an overview of risks which could prevent achievement of the Council's strategic priorities, and how these risks are being managed.

1.3 Some key changes have been made to the corporate risks including the addition of two new risks around recruitment and retention of staff, and the implications from the cost-of-living crisis. Additionally, while it is difficult to compare old and new risk scores the homelessness risk has increased. Appendix I outlines further details on the corporate risks and how they have changed.

2 Background

2.1 The Council's risk management arrangements have been in place since 2015, with Mid Kent Audit facilitating the operation of the overall process. The Risk Management Framework has recently been comprehensively reviewed and updated, with the final version approved by Audit Committee in July 2022. Over the years risk management processes have become well established with officers engaged in the process and aware of their risks and how to manage them.

2.2 Risk information is routinely reported to Senior Management Team (SMT) and Members. SMT receive quarterly updates on all corporate and key operational risks. Before the new committee structure Informal Cabinet received 6-monthly reports on the Council's key risks, and this is now the responsibility of Policy &

Resources Committee. Audit Committee receive an annual report on the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements.

2.3   Historically corporate and operational risks have been captured on spreadsheets and a central version maintained by Mid Kent Audit. To further embed risk management arrangements risk management software (JCAD) has been purchased and configured to reflect the Council's Risk Management Framework. JCAD will ensure risk owners have direct access to their risks, including reviewing and updating these risks routinely. It will also improve the reporting of risk information across the Council.

2.4   Operational risks across all Council services (including shared services) are currently being reviewed and updated alongside the JCAD roll out to ensure they are current and reflect the new Risk Management Framework. Once complete key risk information will be reported to Senior Management Team and Members.

3   Proposals

3.1   Members of Policy & Resources Committee are responsible for oversight and challenge of how the Council's key risks are managed. In particular the management of those risks above the Council's risk appetite. As such Members are asked to consider the Council's risks and whether they are being appropriately managed.

4   Alternative Options

4.1   Identifying and monitoring the Council's risks is a key component of effective governance. The Council could decide not to identify, monitor and report on high-level risks, but this would be contrary to the agreed Risk Management Framework and principles of good governance.

5   Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1   All risk owners and Heads of Service have been involved in the identification and assessment of the Council's risks. The risks reported here have been reviewed and updated by the relevant risk owner.

6   Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Effective risk management is part of the Council's governance framework. The purpose of the risk management process is to ensure that key risks are identified and appropriately managed as the Council pursues its Corporate objectives.

Financial, Resource and Property	Investment in developing risk management arrangements is being met from existing resources within the Mid Kent Audit partnership. No implications identified at this stage.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage
Risk Management and Health and Safety	This report is about risk management. No H&S implications identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage

7   Appendices

7.1   The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Risk Management Update

8   Background Papers

- Risk Management Framework 2022: **Appendix I Swale Risk Management Framework - 2022 Draft.pdf**