

Audit Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	23 April 2025
Report Title	Risk Management Annual Report
EMT Lead	Lisa Fillery – Director of Resources
Head of Service	Katherine Woodward – Head of Audit
Lead Officer	Georgia Harvey – Auditor and Systems Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That the Audit Committee considers and, where necessary, provides comments on the operation of the risk management framework.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the constitution the Audit Committee are responsible for governance and are required to seek assurance on the effectiveness of the operation of the risk management arrangements.
- 1.2 Mid Kent Audit have been working with the Council over the course of the year to update and maintain a comprehensive risk register. This includes updating the corporate and operational risks, continued reporting to the Strategic Management Team and Policy and Resources Committee and bespoke training to members and officers.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of how the risk management process has operated throughout the year. To demonstrate this, achievements over the past year including changes to the Council's corporate risks, as well as an overview of operational risks, as well as plans for the next year are detailed in Appendix 1.

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 is comprehensively reviewed and updated, with the current version approved by Audit Committee in July 2022. Risk management is well established within the Council; with officers engaged in the process, and aware of their risks and how to manage them.
- 2.2 The Council uses risk management software (JCAD) to support risk owners with the maintenance of their risks in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Framework.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Effective risk management is a key component of sound governance. This Committee, as those charged with governance, must gain assurance that the Council is operating an effective risk management process, and that risks are being managed.
- 3.2 We therefore propose that the Committee notes the arrangements in place and provides comments on the operation of the risk management process.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 In order for any risk management process to be effective it is vital that risk information is reported to evidence that risks are monitored and that action is taken to manage risks to an acceptable level. Reporting risks to Members is necessary to provide assurance that risks are being managed.
- 4.2 An alternative option would be to not report or monitor risks, but this would counter the effectiveness of the process and would go against the terms of reference for this Committee.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The risk management framework was designed through consultation with Senior Management Team and Audit Committee Members.
- 5.2 All risk owners have been involved in the identification and assessment of the risks on the register.

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 met from existing resources within the Mid Kent Audit partnership. No implications have been identified.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	No implications have been identified.

Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No implications have been identified.
Health and Wellbeing	No implications have been identified.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	No implications have been identified.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	This report is about risk management across the Council. No health and safety implications have been identified.
Equality and Diversity	No implications have been identified.
Privacy and Data Protection	No implications have been identified.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix 1: Risk Management Annual Report - April 2025
 - Appendix 2: Corporate Risk Register
 - Appendix 3: Corporate Risk Movement

8 Background Papers

- Risk Management Framework 2022.