	WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 19 MARCH 2024**
Subject	**STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council Email: andy.graham@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Giles Hughes, Chief Executive. Email: giles.hughes@westoxon.gov.uk
Report author	Cheryl Sloan, Business Manager for Governance, Risk and Business Continuity Email: democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	The report brings to members the current version of the Strategic Risk Register for information and assurance that risks to the Council are being managed and appropriate actions are being taken to mitigate risk.
Annexes	Annex A – Strategic Risk Register
Recommendation(s)	That the Audit and Governance Committee resolves to: 1. Note the Strategic Risk Register.
Corporate priorities	All
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	N/A

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The strategic risk register is presented to the Audit and Governance Committee to provide assurance that risks to the Council are being managed and appropriate actions are being taken to mitigate risk.

1.2 Presentation of the risk register also provides an opportunity for members of the Audit Committee to raise questions and highlight any risks which they feel should be referenced and mitigated.

2. RISK REGISTER

2.1 All updates to the commentary since the November Audit and Governance Committee are shown in red, along with a direction of travel column, which shows if the risk has either increased / red (got worse), decreased / green (reduced in risk) or stayed the same since the last time it was reported to Audit Committee.

2.2 There have been no changes to the direction of travel since the last report.

2.3 Below is a summary of some of the key changes / updates:

IR3 Health & Safety. Accidents and incidents remain low with positive health and safety controls in place.

IR5 Shareholder Review of Publica: Significant work is being undertaken to progress the recommendations in the Human Engine report. This includes a further report undertaken by Local Partnerships, appointment of an Interim Programme Director and establishment of Governance Arrangements for the transition.

ER4 Refugees / Asylum Seekers. A new risk has been added for refugees and asylum seekers for Government decision to close Asylum seeker hotels, however, the current mitigations in place mean that the risk is low.

SR1 Major Civil Emergency. Significant work has been undertaken to develop locality-based response and rest centre teams. These are now in place, and refresher training is now underway for all employees who will play a part in responding to a civil emergency.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report relates to the Council's management of risk and identifies the current strategic risks, as such no separate risk assessment has been completed.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1 An equalities impact assessment is not required for this report.

7. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no climate or ecological emergency implications arising directly from this report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- Previous version of the West Oxfordshire District Council Strategic Risk Register presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 23 November 2023.

8.2 These documents will be available for inspection online at www.westoxon.gov.uk or by contacting democratic services democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting.