

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <br><b>WEST OXFORDSHIRE<br/>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b> | <b>WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>  |
| Name and date of Committee  | <b>AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 22 JANUARY 2026</b>   |
| Subject   | <b>STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER</b>  |
| Wards affected  | All   |
| Accountable member  | Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council<br>Email: <a href="mailto:andy.graham@westoxon.gov.uk">andy.graham@westoxon.gov.uk</a>  |
| Accountable officer   | Giles Hughes, Chief Executive.<br>Email: <a href="mailto:giles.hughes@westoxon.gov.uk">giles.hughes@westoxon.gov.uk</a>   |
| Report author   | Cheryl Sloan, Assistant Director, Workforce Strategy & Transformation<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cheryl.sloan@publicagroup.uk">cheryl.sloan@publicagroup.uk</a>  |
| 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:<br>I. Note the contents of the report and annex.   |
| Corporate priorities  | All   |
| Key Decision  | NO  |
| Exempt  | NO  |
| Consultees/<br>Consultation   | Senior Leadership Team – the Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Governance and Director of Place and wider Management Team on a Monthly basis.<br><br>Informal Executive on a quarterly basis.       |

## I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Strategic Risk Register is presented to the Audit and Governance Committee ('the 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 Strategic Risk Register also provides an opportunity for Members of the Committee to raise questions and highlight any risks which they feel should be referenced and mitigated.

## 2. RISK REGISTER

- 2.1 The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed monthly by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). All updates to the commentary since the last review in December 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 SLT.
- 2.2 In this summary, there have been no significant changes to the Strategic Risk Register. One risk has been reduced in likelihood, which is IRI Financial stability, all other risks have not changed in scoring, with all updates shown in red, or strike through, but do not impact on the risk scoring or significantly change the risk.
- 2.3 The most significant updates this month include:

**IRI Financial Stability.** A Provisional Funding Settlement was announced on 17 December 2025 which was significantly better than expected due to a change in methodology which has resulted in the Income Protection Floor being significantly better than anticipated. In summary, the Council were expecting to lose a significant amount of funding in the three-year settlement, and due to this change in methodology, the Council have not lost as much as were predicted. To reflect this, the likelihood of the risk happening has been reduced. The risk remains high, as this is scored on the medium-term financial strategy, and not the in-year financial position.

**SR2 Climate Emergency:** This provides an update in relation to the decision not to proceed to the next stages of the PSDS 3b decarbonisation project at Carterton Leisure Centre and the PSDS 4 project at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre following financial and technical feasibility assessments respectively, which will affect the Council's pathway to carbon neutrality and make achieving the 2030 target more challenging. As a result, alternative options will need to be identified to remain on track. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) will also influence the Council's ability to meet this target. Due to mitigations being explored, this risk scoring has not changed.

## 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.

**8.2** These documents will be available for inspection online at [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) or by contacting democratic services [democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk) for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting.