



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 30 NOVEMBER 2023
Subject	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of the Council Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Officer Email: Democratic@Cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Cheryl Sloan, Business Services Manager, Governance, Risk & Business Continuity Email: Democratic.Services@Cotswold.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 – Risk register
Recommendation(s)	That the Audit and Governance Committee resolves to: I. Note the Strategic Risk Register.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	NA



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To present to the Audit and Governance Committee the Strategic Risk Register for Cotswold District Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Presentation of the risk register also provides an opportunity for members of the Audit and Governance Committee to raise questions and highlight any risks which they feel should be referenced and mitigated.

3. RISK REGISTER

- 3.1 Risk Management is the process used to identify, evaluate, and manage the whole range of business risks facing an organisation.
- 3.2 A risk can be defined as the potential of something happening which may have a negative impact on a council's ability to deliver services or projects and achieve its objectives. By being alert to this and putting in place mechanisms to manage risks, a council will be in a better position to continue to deliver services, remain viable, continue to innovate, and use resources more efficiently.
- 3.3 Risk Management is not necessarily about being 'risk averse', it is about being 'risk aware'. Through Risk Management we proactively identify potential risks to our businesses, which could include service delivery risks, financial risks, people risks or projects risks, and then assess what the impact would be should that risk happen, what the likelihood is of that risk occurring and what we can do to manage or mitigate that risk. As a council, we then have to consider whether that risk is worth taking and if yes, do we accept it, put in place mitigations to lower the risk, pass or share the risk e.g., outsourcing the risk, or avoid the risk.
- 3.4 The risk register presented to the Audit and Governance Committee is the Strategic Risk register for the Council. This captures the high-level risks that the council is currently facing. All Council partners such as Publica have their own Strategic risk register, along with individual services areas and project risk registers, which feed into this high-level strategic risk register.
- 3.5 To ensure risks are captured, mitigated, and clearly reported, the Cotswold District Council Risk Register has been recently reviewed and a new Risk Register is reported to this Audit & Governance Committee.



- 3.6 This new template should be clearer and easier to see the high-level risks for the Council, the mitigations which are currently in place and the direction of travel. This will continue to be developed over the next few months, and any feedback from the Audit and Governance Committee is welcomed.
- 3.7 The risk register includes a scoring based on impact and likelihood of the risk occurring before mitigation and then the residual risk after mitigation. The arrow shows the direction of travel since the last time the risk was reviewed and reported.

- 3.8 Risks which have recently increased include: -

CDC IR 5 Shareholder Review of Publica: This risk has been increased to reflect the recommendation to in-source the majority of services from Publica whilst there is still more detailed work to undertake around the transition plan, governance, and due diligence.

CDC PR 3 Partnership deliverables (Publica): This risk has been increased to reflect the potential impact on savings achievement, recruitment, retention, and performance following the recommendation to in-source the majority of savings. Also, the requirement to review governance arrangements for the proposed new delivery model. This risk should decrease as the detailed work is completed on the transition plan, governance, and due diligence.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee note the Risk Register.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 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.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 An equalities impact assessment is not required for this report.

9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

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

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS



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10.1 None.

(END)