

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Date 08 November 2021

1. **REPORT TITLE** Walleys Quarry Risk Profile
- Submitted by:** Executive Management Team
- Portfolio:** Finance, Town Centres and Growth.
- Ward(s) affected:** All

Purpose of the Report

Following the last meeting on 26 July 2021, this report is to provide members with the current risk profile and heat map on the risks associated with Walleys Quarry and the council's controls and actions currently in place.

To ask members to recognise that risk likelihood can be mitigated but the risk impact may not change.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:-

- (a) Note the report and the reasons for the Walleys Quarry Risk Profile being contained in the confidential appendix to the report**
- (b) Review the risk profile of Walleys Quarry as at Confidential Appendix A.**

Reason

The risk management process adopted by the Council has been reviewed to incorporate changes to the way the Council works and to provide continuity and streamlined reporting of risks to allow the process to become further embedded at each level of the authority.

This will also aid the identification of key risks that potentially threaten the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.

The Risk Management Strategy provides a formal and proportionate framework to manage these identified risks and thus reduce the Council's exposure.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Council monitors and manages all its risks through the various risk profiles contained within GRACE (Governance Risk and Control Environment) – the Council's software used to record and manage risks.
- 1.2 The Council currently reviews its high (red 9) risks at least monthly and its medium (amber) risks at least quarterly.

- 1.3 Risk owners are challenged by the Council's Risk Champions in respect of the controls, further actions, ratings and emerging risks related to their risk profiles, and are also challenged on the reasons for inclusion or non-inclusion and amendments of these.
- 1.4 Projects are managed to a high level in relation to risk and are reviewed in accordance with the Risk Management Strategy (i.e. at least monthly). Any specific projects, where required can also have their risks monitored, maintained and managed in the Project Board meetings, in line with whichever risk management process they wish to use – this will stop 'double reporting' and enable officers to manage the project risks accordingly, but escalating any requirements via the process in the Risk Management Strategy.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 At the previous meeting on 26 July 2021, Members requested sight of the Walleys Quarry risk profile. This can be found at Confidential Appendix A.
- 2.2 The information requested is contained in a confidential appendix because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972, as it refers to the Councils approach to dealing with the risks associated with the ongoing legal process in respect of the Abatement Notice served by the Council on Walleys Quarry Ltd. and the subsequent appeal lodged.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 Note the report and the reasons for the Walleys Quarry Risk Profile being contained in the confidential appendix to the report
- 3.2 Review the risk profile of Walleys Quarry as at Confidential Appendix A.

4. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 4.1 To offer a continual review process to minimise and mitigate risks.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 Following the comprehensive review of risk profiles taking place across the council, the only risks to be reported are those from the Corporate Risk Register, unless there are any significant occurrences or increased in other profiles, or specific profiles are requested by Members.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, state that:

*“The relevant body **is** responsible for ensuring that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives; ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective, and includes effective arrangements for the management of risk”.*

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 There are no differential equality impact issues in relation to this report.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 None where actions are to be taken in order to mitigate the risks as these will be met from within existing budgets. Where this is not possible, further reports will be submitted to Members of relevant Committees.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 Insufficient risk profiles may expose the council to non-compliance with its Legal and Statutory obligations.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 Good risk management is a key part of the overall delivery of the Council's four corporate priorities of; Local Services that Work for Local People, Growing our People and Places, a Healthy, Active and Safe Borough, a Town Centre for all. Officers assess sustainability and climate change implications as part of their local services.



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 This report is for information and there are no key decision requirements pertaining to the information contained within the report.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Previous Minutes from Committee meeting held on 26 July 2021.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Appendix A – Walleys Quarry risk profile with heat map.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None.