Report to Audit and Standards Committee

07 September 2026

Corporate Risk Management Report - First Quarter 2026/27

Lead Member:

Cllr Martin Rogerson – Cabinet Member for Legal, Governance and Organisational Performance

Lead Officer:

Olwen Brown – Service Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Key Decision: No

Ward(s): All

Appendices: Appendix A – New added risk
Appendix B – Corporate risk register

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Craig Turner	
Monitoring Officer	Olwen Brown	
Section 151	Craig Turner	7/8/26
Chief Executive	Gordon Mole	
Cabinet Member	Martin Rogerson	

Report Summary

The Council's Risk Management Strategy (RMS) sets out how it identifies, records, manages and reports on risk. The RMS requires that medium and high risks are reported to the committee quarterly, along with any risk profiles that are overdue by 6 months or more. Best practice guidance provided by the Association of Local Authority Risk Managers (ALARM) and the Chartered Institute of Public Sector Accountants (CIPFA) informs the objectives of the RMS.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. Notes that there are currently no risks that are more than 6 months overdue for a review, up to the end of quarter one of 2026/27.

2. Notes that there have been no risk level increases.

3. Notes that there has been one new risk added (Appendix A).

4. Notes the Corporate Risk Register profile (Appendix B).

5. Advises Officers of any individual risk profiles that the Committee would like to scrutinise in more details at its next meeting.

6. Notes that whilst the likelihood of a risk materialising may be mitigate, the likely impacts may not change.

1. Background

1.1. The Council uses Governance, Risk and Control Environment (GRACE) software to monitor and manage its risks by creating individual risk profiles which rank based on likely occurrence and impact, after applying relevant mitigation measures. The system allows for the creation and monitoring of mitigation action and the assignment of risk owners.

1.2. The RMS describes how risks are escalated and reported through that hierarchy depending on the nature of the risk, and in light of any delays in reviewing risk profiles or applying mitigation measures.

1.3. The software allows risks to be managed in this way at service and directorate level, and, where warranted, corporately through this Committee and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). The Council reviews its high risk at least monthly and its medium risks at least quarterly. The software prompts risk owners to review their risk profiles at specified intervals and escalates overdue reviews.

1.4. The Council's Risk Champion (who has a direct reporting line to the Monitoring Officer and CLT) challenges risk owners in respect of the controls, further actions, ratings and emerging risks related to their risk profiles. They are also challenged on the reasons for inclusion or non-inclusion of risks and amendments to profiles.

1.5. Project specific risks are managed to a high level in project specific risk registers, and are reviewed in accordance with the RMS on a monthly basis. Any specific projects can, where required, also have their risks monitored, maintained and managed in project board meetings, but also remain subject to the escalation requirements in the RMS.

1.6. At the end of quarter one of 2026/27 there are no overdue risk reviews of more than 6 months and no risks had increased in risk level rating.

1.7. In the same quarter there was one new risk added as shown below (further detail is shown at Appendix A):

Profile	Management Level	Risk	Final Rating	Risk Owner
Planning Policy	Operational	New Local Plan (2030-2045)	Amber C	Allan Clarke

2. Purpose

2.1. To update the Committee on the current position in respect of risk management controls and identified corporate risks.

3. Strategic Approach

3.1 The RMS provides a framework for embedding risk management across the Council with defined roles and responsibilities and a structured process. This will then ensure that opportunities are maximised, risks minimised and that risk management will continue to be embedded in the Council's management and decision making processes.

3.2 The Audit and Standards Committee provides independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework, internal control environment and corporate governance. It oversees how strategic and operational risks are identified, monitored and mitigated.

4. Finance & Resources

4.1. Finance and resources implications arising from particular risks are identified and managed as part of the risk profile in question.

4.2. The Council's general fund reserve is based on a review and risk assessment of financial risks in order to determine a recommended minimum level of reserve, this reserve currently holds a risk assessed balance of £2.225m.

5. Legal & Governance

5.1. The RMS and the procedures it sets out, including the escalation of risks and reporting to this Committee satisfies the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations, which state that:

'The relevant body is responsible for ensuring that it has a sounds 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.'

6. Supporting Information

6.1. Report to Audit and Standards Committee 27 April 2026 – Corporate Risk Management Report 2026/27 (Link).