

## Audit Committee – 24 June 2022

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Corporate Risk Management and Corporate Risk and Assurance Register Update	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Mel Barrett, Chief Executive Clive Heaphy, Interim Corporate Director of Finance & Resources	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
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<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	John Slater, Group Auditor Corporate Leadership Team Directorate Leadership Teams	
<p>Appendices 3 and 4 to this report are exempt from publication under paragraph number three of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p> <p>It is not in the public interest to disclose this information because this may lead to potential for commercial disadvantage if sensitive commercial, financial or contractual information became available to potential contractors or partners.</p>		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	To receive the refreshed Risk Management Policy and Framework and provide views and feedback on the policy, framework and implementation plan.	
<b>2</b>	To note and provide views and feedback on the Annual Report and progress made to review existing processes and further embed Risk Management across the Council.	
<b>3</b>	To note the Corporate Risk and Assurance Register and if appropriate identify any risks for further review.	

### 1 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The Audit Committee's risk management role is to provide assurance on the adequacy of the Council's Risk Management Policy and Framework and the associated control environment by reviewing the mechanisms for assessing and managing risk. This includes ensuring that relevant managers undertake active risk management. This report presents an update on Risk Management and the latest review of the corporate risks faced by the Council.

## **2 Background**

### **2.1. Refreshed Risk Management Policy and Framework**

2.1.1 The refreshed Risk Management Policy and Framework is attached as Appendix 1 for review and comment. The document sets out the Council's approach to risk management and includes a policy, a strategy and a detailed risk management toolkit:

- The policy states that the Council is committed to the proactive management of risks, outlines the Council's active promotion of the principles of effective risk management and includes the risk appetite statements agreed by CLT.
- The strategy sets out the aims, principles and objectives for risk management, how the framework will be communicated, including training, delivery, monitoring and an action plan
- The toolkit provides guidance to managers, to assist them in undertaking any risk management activities.

2.1.2. The previous version approved by CLT in November 2020 has been reviewed and updated to incorporate changes recommended following a self- assessment against best practice. Feedback on the Framework has also been incorporated from Audit Committee members, CLT, PWC and Zurich. Extensive feedback has also been received from Improvement Assurance Board members in writing and through meetings with the overall opinion of the document being positive.

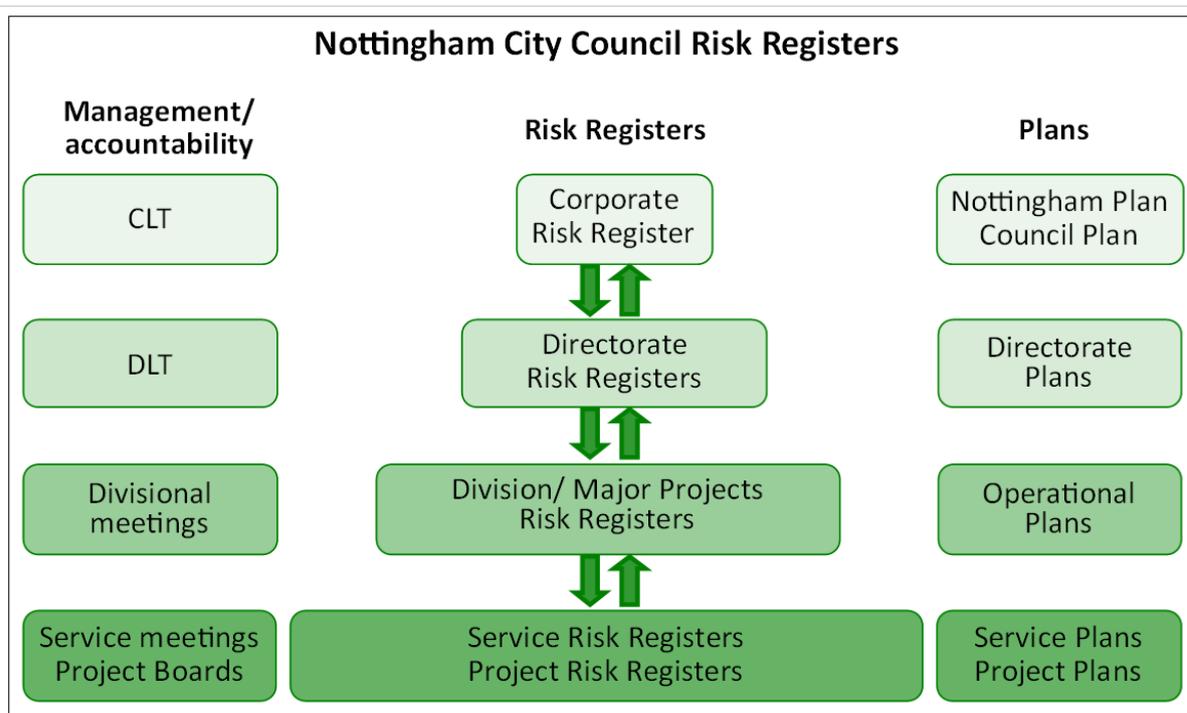
2.1.3. The framework is supported by risk templates, a quick reference toolkit for managers, online risk management training and a series of live training sessions for Senior Officers. A risk management intranet site is also available and provides access to the Policy and Framework, all supporting documents and contact details for the risk team.

### **2.2. Strategic Risk Annual Report**

2.2.1. The first annual report for the strategic risk function is attached as Appendix 2. The report highlights the enormous progress made to embed strategic risk management across the Council during 2021/22. During the year, the team have seen positive engagement and consultation with colleagues and evidence of risk management processes being embedded. This progress has been possible due to the strong leadership and support for risk management from the Chief Executive, Corporate Director for Finance and Resources, CLT and DLT members and the chair of the Audit Committee.

### **2.3. Corporate Risk and Assurance Register Update**

2.3.1. A risk reporting process is in place to support escalation of risk throughout the Council as required. Risks can move between registers based on seriousness and required oversight and support. The escalation process is shown diagrammatically as follows:



2.3.2. Risks are reviewed by Divisional Leads, DLTs, CLT and Leadership Group quarterly. The corporate register is also reviewed by Executive Panel, Executive Board and Audit Committee six monthly.

## 2.4. The Register Update

2.4.1. An overview of the top corporate risks to the Council and changes to the register in the last quarter is included as Appendix 3 and the summary Corporate Risk and Assurance Register is attached as Appendix 4 for review of the existing mitigations in place and to agree any further assurances needed.

## 3. Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1. To do nothing: this risks the potential that not all key corporate risks facing the Council are represented and understood within the register and that Audit Committee members are not fully engaged or aware of the Council's risk profile.

## 4. Consideration of Risk

4.1. Risks for consideration are detailed within the register.

## 5. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

5.1. Financial implications are highlighted as potential impacts for each risk included within the register alongside an assessment of the impact on finance using the risk matrix. Finance colleagues have inputted to related risks within the register.

## 6. Legal colleague comments

6.1. Legal implications are highlighted as potential impacts for each risk included within the register alongside an assessment of the impact on legal/ legislation using the risk matrix. Legal colleagues have inputted to related risks within the register.

## 7. Other relevant comments

7.1. Senior colleagues across all directorates have inputted to related risks within the register.

## 8. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

8.1. N/A

## 9. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

9.1. Social value implications are highlighted as potential impacts for each risk included within the register alongside an assessment of the impact using the risk matrix.

## 10. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

10.1. N/A

## 11. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1. Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

An EIA is not required because: There is no change proposed within the report.  
(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Yes

Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

## 12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1. Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

A DPIA is not required because: There is no change proposed within the report.  
(Please explain why a DPIA is not necessary)

Yes

Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

## 13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1. Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

A CIA is not required because: There is no change proposed within the report.

(Please explain why a DPIA is not necessary)

Yes

Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

**14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

14.1. None

**15. Published documents referred to in this report**

15.1. None