

## Annual Risk Report 2024 - 2025

To: Audit and Accounts Committee

Meeting Date: 23 July 2025

From: Mairead Claydon, Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management

Electoral division(s): N/A

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: Not Applicable

Executive Summary: The purpose of the report is to provide an update to Audit and Accounts Committee on the main areas of risk management activity in 2024/25.

Recommendation: The committee is recommended to note and comment on the Annual Risk Management Report (Appendix 1), Corporate Risk Register (Annex A); Risk Management Strategy (Annex B); and updated Risk Policy (Annex C).

Officer contact:

Name: Mairead Claydon  
Post: Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management  
Email: [Mairead.claydon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mairead.claydon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# 1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 Risk Management is the process by which the Council understands and proactively considers the principal uncertainties and overall risks facing the organisation. The objective is to ensure that risks which might impact upon the Council achieving its plans are identified and managed on a timely basis and in a proportionate manner. As such, effective risk management contributes to the achievement of all seven of the Council's ambitions.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Risk Management is the process by which the Council understands and proactively considers the principal uncertainties and overall risks facing the organisation. Through effective risk management, we aim to optimise success by minimising threats. The objective is to ensure that risks that might impact upon the Council achieving its plans are identified and managed on a timely basis and in a proportionate manner. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the authority to have a sound system of internal control which includes effective arrangements for the management of risk.
- 2.2 Under the Council's constitution, the Strategy and Resources Committee is responsible for the development and oversight of the Council's risk management and strategy. The Audit and Accounts Committee also has important functions in relation to risk, including considering the effectiveness of the risk management arrangements and associated control environment, and to seek assurances that appropriate action is being taken in response to risk.
- 2.3 Risk is inherent in our delivery of high-quality public services. The volatility, complexity and ambiguity of the Council's operating environment continues to increase, and taxpayers rightly expect transparency and accountability from the Council in managing the impacts of risk. We are committed to managing risk so that we enhance strategic planning and prioritisation and achieve our objectives with agility. The benefits of risk management include:
- Taking timely and proportionate action to prevent risks occurring or to manage effectively
  - Development and delivery of robust and effective action plans and enhancements to the governance of the organisation
  - Ensuring that decision makers are fully aware of any key risk issues associated with proposals being considered at the point of decision making
  - Demonstrating openness and accountability
- 2.4 The Annual Risk Management Report summarises the risk management activity undertaken during 2024 - 2025 at Cambridgeshire County Council, and supports the Committees in discharging their respective responsibilities around risk management and control.

## 3. Main Issues

- 3.1 This covering report is provided to the Annual Risk Management Report attached at Appendix 1 and the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) attached at Annex A.

- 3.2 It is considered best practice to prepare a plan that outlines activity to continuously improve risk management. This plan is outlined in the updated Risk Strategy document attached at Annex B. This document also reflects the work undertaken in-year to improve the Council's risk management arrangements and culture.
- 3.3 The updated corporate Risk Management Policy is attached at Annex C, reflecting the Council's framework for managing risk, with updated information on the approach to risk appetite.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Finance Implications

N/A

### 4.2 Legal Implications

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the authority to have a sound system of internal control, which includes effective arrangements for the management of risk.

### 4.3 Risk Implications

This report gives an overview of the Council's risk management arrangements in 2024/25 and the forward plan for development of risk management systems and processes in 2025/26. The objective is to ensure that risks that might impact upon the Council achieving its plans are identified and managed on a timely basis and in a proportionate manner.

### 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

## 5. Source Documents

- 5.1 Annual Governance Statement  
[Statement of accounts - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)