

<b>Committee:</b>	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
<b>Report Title</b>	Strategic Risk Register
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	26 June 2025
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<b>Lead Officer</b>	Executive Director of Finance and Transformation Alex Thompson
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All wards
<b>Appendices (if any)</b>	1. Strategic Risk Register as of May 2025.

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on the profile of the key strategic risks currently faced by the Council since they were last reported.

### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:-

- To consider and comment upon the latest strategic risk register

## 3. Proposals – Reasons for the recommendations

- 3.1 Effective risk management is a key element of good corporate governance, as noted in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance, and is essential to the overall performance of the Council in meeting its corporate plan objectives. Good risk management will ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively, and that assets and resources are protected against risk in the most efficient way.
- 3.2 The role of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is to help provide assurance to the Council that it has a system of governance, risk management and internal control in place and that the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements continue to inform decision making..

## 4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Whilst this report does not require a decision and therefore, alternative options do not need to be considered, when measures are being considered

for the mitigation of each of the strategic risks, this takes into account any alternative options available.

## 5 Context and Key Issues

- 5.1 The strategic risk register is a live document and reflects the Council's risk profile as of May 2025. The risks undergo ongoing review to ensure they remain appropriate and are assessed in order to aid informed decision making and resource allocation.
- 5.2 The strategic risk register does not include all of the risks faced by the Council. Other risks are captured within directorate, programme and project risk registers in line with the Council's risk management framework.
- 5.3 The review and assessment of each strategic risk has been discussed with the risk owners and shared with the Strategic Leadership Team.
- 5.4 An update on the current risks, including the measures in place to mitigate them are included within Appendix One.

A summary of the current risk profile is shown below:

Risk	Current risk score
Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation	Red
SEND Placements and Transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing trajectory of demand</li> <li>Both demand and cost</li> </ul>	Amber Red
Climate Change ( <b>reduced from red</b> )	Amber
Housing Transformation ( <b>reduced from red</b> )	Amber
Cyber Security ( <b>reduced from red</b> )	Amber
Adults - Strategic Workforce Development ( <b>reduced from red</b> )	Amber
Compliance with DPA/GDPR	Amber
Children's Social Care	Amber
Business Continuity Management	Amber
Equalities	Amber
Borough Archives	Amber
Elections Act	Amber
Workforce Recruitment ( <b>reduced from amber</b> )	Green
Customer Experience ( <b>reduced from amber</b> )	Green
Organisational Culture ( <b>reduced from amber</b> )	Green
Continuous Improvement ( <b>reduced from amber</b> )	Green
Budget Monitoring and Management	Green
MTFS	Green

Regeneration Fund Programme	Green
Sandwell Local Plan	Green

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The Authority's budget planning process incorporates financial and other resources required to manage the authority's risks and deliver the priorities within the Council Plan.

## **7. Legal and Governance Implications**

- 7.1 There are numerous standards applicable to the management of risk within the local authority sector. Included amongst these is guidance from CIPFA/Solace, the British Standards Institute (BSI) and a set of joint standards published by the Institute of Risk Management (IRM), Alarm (The public sector risk management association) and AIRMIC (Association of Risk Managers in Industry and Commerce). Evidence that robust management of the authority's strategic risks is being undertaken demonstrates compliance with these standards.

## **8. Risks**

- 8.1 The report itself is an update of the key risks facing the Council.

## **9. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)**

- 9.1 As a decision is not being sought in this report, it is not necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. However, when measures and decisions are being considered for the mitigation of risks, risk owners must take into account any equalities impact and whether an equalities impact assessment is required. The Council recognises that its workforce is instrumental in assisting the organisation in managing the strategic risks noted within this report and thereby delivering the Council's priorities. As such, the Council must ensure that equalities implications and how they affect the workforce as well as the wider community are considered and underpin all decisions and risk mitigating actions.

## **10. Other Relevant Implications**

- 10.1 The actions and decisions that are being considered for the mitigation of the strategic risks, take into account the meeting of the Council's commitments, and there is a current risk on the register relating to Climate Change.

## **11. Background Documents**

None.

## **12. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?**

This report will support the delivery of the following Strategic Themes:-

- Growing up in Sandwell
- Living in Sandwell
- Healthy in Sandwell
- Thriving Economy in Sandwell

- One Council One Team Approach.

The report details the key strategic risks that need to be managed to ensure that they do not negatively impact on the delivery of the Council Plan objectives.