



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 22/12

MEETING	Finance & Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	9 March 2022
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Strategic Risk Register
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For review and note
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This paper provides Members with the latest position of the Strategic Risk Register and associated controls.</p> <p>The Service's cyber security arrangements were externally scrutinised, against the Cyber Essentials Standard, during November 2021. This has resulted in the Service being awarded the accreditation. Whilst cyber security is a national risk, due to the positive mitigations and controls the Service has in place, and with this additional assurance, it was envisaged that the Service would recommend that Risk 301: 'Failure to protect the Service against cyber threats and attacks', was removed from the Strategic Risk Register, and monitored at a departmental level. However, in view of the current situation in the Ukraine and the increased cyber threat, it is now recommended that it remains on the Strategic Risk Register.</p> <p>Furthermore, whilst there has been a removal of the Government's restrictions, following the emergence of the Omicron variant, the Service is recommending that Risk 413: '<i>Failure to appropriately respond to the protracted impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and associated challenges</i>', remains a strategic risk. This is to ensure the continued monitoring of the impact on the Service and its communities as we move into the spring months. If the current situation continues, it is</p>

	<p>envisaged that the Service will recommend its removal at the next committee meeting.</p> <p>The Finance & Audit Committee will next review the Strategic Risk Register at its meeting in July 2022.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to identify, monitor and manage risks may undermine the corporate reputation of the Authority and potentially heighten risk exposure
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and note the strategic risks and mitigations set out in appendix A.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk Matrix 2. Strategic Assessment of Risk
APPENDIX	Appendix A – Strategic Risk Register
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	<p>Name: Jill McCrae, Temporary Director of Service Support.</p> <p>Email: jill.mccrae@dwfire.org.uk</p> <p>Tel no: 01722 691073</p>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of its terms of reference, the Finance & Audit Committee is required to review the Authority's strategic risks on a quarterly basis.
- 1.2 These were last reviewed and approved by the Committee on the 08 December 2021.

2. Strategic risks

- 2.1 Risks are managed within the planning, performance and risk management system, Sytle and monitored at all levels throughout the Service.
- 2.2 All risks are scored using the agreed risk appetite matrix and those identified as scoring 15 and above are classified at strategic level.
- 2.3 The strategic risks are reviewed by the Service monthly by the Strategic Leadership Team, where progress against controls is discussed and monitored.
- 2.4 Appendix A - Strategic Risk Register, provides Members with details of the strategic risks, their current and targeted risk ratings and the controls planned to reduce and mitigate the risk to the targeted level.
- 2.5 All risk mitigations are monitored through the Service performance reporting protocols.
- 2.6 Commentary against the progress of the controls is provided within the quarterly performance reports presented to Members.
- 2.7 Supplementary commentary against the strategic risks is provided on an exception basis, where an issue requires escalation and reporting.
- 2.8 **Risk 413:** *Failure to appropriately respond to the protracted impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and associated challenges.*
 - 2.8.1 During the Finance & Audit Committee meeting in December 2021, Members agreed that the risk would remain at strategic level, whilst the Government continued to understand the Omicron variant and the potential pressures over the winter period.
 - 2.8.2 Whilst the Government have now removed a significant majority of Covid restrictions, the Service is recommending the continuation of this risk, at a strategic level. This is whilst we monitor the impact of the removal of these restrictions and move into the spring months.
 - 2.8.3 It is anticipated, due to the Service's current positive position, that the Service will potentially recommend the reduction of the risk at the Finance & Audit Committee meeting in July 2022.

2.9 **Risk 301:** *Failure to protect the Service against cyber threats and attacks*

- 2.9.1 The Service's cyber security arrangements have undergone external scrutiny, against the Cyber Essentials Standard, throughout November 2021, where the Service was successfully awarded the accreditation.
- 2.9.2 Whilst cyber security remains a national risk, the Service has robust and assured arrangements in place, which support the mitigation of this risk and this accreditation provides Members with the assurance against these arrangements.
- 2.9.3 During the Finance & Audit meeting in December 2021, it was envisaged that following receipt of this accreditation the Service would recommend the reduction of this risk. Resulting in the risk being reviewed ongoing at a department level, by the Service.
- 2.9.4 However, in view of the current situation in the Ukraine and the heightened likelihood of a cyber-attack, the Service recommends that this risk remains on the strategic risk register.

3. **Summary and key points**

- 3.1 Officers will continue to review these risks monthly and a progress report will be brought to the Finance & Audit Committee at its next meeting in July 2022.

March 2022