



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

Item 24/48

MEETING	Finance & Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	11 September 2024
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Strategic Risk Register
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For review and to note
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This paper provides Members with the latest position of the Strategic Risk Register and associated controls.</p> <p>The strategic risk control mitigations are activities within the Service Delivery Plan, with progress reviewed monthly through the Service’s performance reporting structures, and to Members within the quarterly performance reports.</p> <p>Our Service’s culture will continue to be a persistent and sustained strategic focus, it is therefore recommended that this current high-level risk (Risk number 371) is increased to the strategic risk register.</p> <p>Commentary against the risks will be provided on an exception basis, where an issue requires escalating and reporting.</p> <p>The Finance &amp; Audit Committee will next review the Strategic Risk Register at its meeting in December 2024.</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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report
RECOMMENDATION	Members are asked to:  1. Review and note the strategic risks and mitigations set out in Appendix A.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	1. <a href="#">Risk Matrix</a> 2. <a href="#">Strategic Assessment of Risk</a>
APPENDIX	Appendix A – Strategic Risk Register
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## 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 24 July 2024.

## 2. Strategic risks

- 2.1 Risks are managed within the planning, performance and risk management system, Cycle 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.
- 2.8 Risk 371 – *'Ensuring a positive working culture'*
- 2.9 As Members are aware there has been an increased focus on the culture within the fire and rescue sector and indeed the Service itself has been subject to criticism and scrutiny. As will also be known, the independent review that was commissioned by the Chief Fire Officer in 2023 highlighted a number of issues and areas for improvement. Consequently the existing approach to cultural development was further strengthened and a revised culture action plan put in place. Significant progress has been undertaken since its adoption with improvements reported to the Finance & Audit committee on a six-monthly basis.
- 2.10 With the recent publication of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service's report into 'Standards of behaviour - The handling of misconduct in fire and rescue services', it is felt appropriate that the existing risk is now monitored by Members. This would also be prudent given that the Inspectorate's round 3 inspection report into the Service (due in the Autumn) will

inevitably draw upon the findings upon recent Service reviews which may lead to the downgrading of previous scores.

### **3. Summary and key points**

- 3.1 Officers will continue to regularly review these risks and a progress report will be brought to the Finance & Audit Committee at its next meeting in December 2024.