DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item 26/53

MEETING	Finance & Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	2 December 2026
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Strategic Risk Register
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For review and to note
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This paper provides Members with the latest position of the Strategic Risk Register and associated controls. The strategic risks and their control mitigations are reviewed monthly through the Service's performance reporting structures, and to Members within the quarterly performance reports. Commentary against the risks will be provided on an exception basis, where an issue requires escalating and reporting. The Service continues to actively monitor the Devolution and Contamination risks, maintaining appropriate engagement, oversight and assurance that these are being effectively managed. At this time, neither risk is considered to warrant escalation to the Strategic Risk Register. The Service is also responding to changes to the National Cyber Security Centres' updated Cyber Assessment Framework and the Cyber Security report from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to ensure the arrangements in place and those planned remain sufficient to manage this risk. It is recommended that the scoring for this risk can remain at its current level.

	The Finance & Audit Committee will next review the Strategic Risk Register at its meeting in March 2027.
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. Strategic Assessment of Risk 2. Service Risk Appetite Matrix.docx
APPENDIX	Appendix A – Strategic Risk Register
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Name: Jill McCrae, Assistant Chief Officer, Director of Service Support. Email: jill.mccrae@dwfire.org.uk Tel no: 01722 691000

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 9 September 2026.

2. Strategic risks

2.1 Risks are managed within the planning, performance and risk management system, Sycle.

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 Strategic level risks are reviewed 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.

2.8 The Service continues to monitor developments in the Devolution agenda, particularly in relation to Wessex and Thames Valley. Whilst this remains a recognised Service risk, it is not currently considered to constitute an emerging strategic risk, with the CFO and team maintaining engagement with partners and Members to ensure the Service remains sighted on progress and involved in relevant discussions.

2.9 The Service continues to monitor the Contamination risk, as highlighted at recent Finance & Audit meetings. A thorough assessment of current and developing practices has provided assurance that mitigations are well established, being effectively managed across the Service and remain aligned with national guidance. It is therefore not recommended that this risk be escalated to the Strategic Risk Register at this time.

2.10 The Service is responding to changes to the National Cyber Security Centres' updated Cyber Assessment Framework as well as the recently published Cyber Security report from HMICFRS to ensure the arrangements in place, and those planned remain sufficient to manage this risk. It is recommended that the scoring for

this risk can remain at its current level and the risk and mitigations are under monthly review.

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 March 2027.