

**CABINET
TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: 2025-26 Year End report on Risk Management Governance

REPORT OF: Director - Resources

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member - Resources

COUNCIL PRIORITY: Sustainability;

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. This report provides an update on the effectiveness of the Risk Management governance arrangements at the Council.

1.2. At the time Appendix A was finalised (early May), the Council had seven red corporate risks. The two risks with the highest scores relate to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution, and Resourcing. A significant element of the LGR risk specifically relates to resourcing/ staffing. The remaining five red risks (with scores of 7 or 8) are two over-arching risks (cyber risk and financial sustainability) and three project risks (Churchgate, decarbonisation phase 2 and museum collection facility).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That the Committee comment on the Risk Management Governance update as attached at Appendix A and recommend that Cabinet refer it on the Council.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. To provide assurance that the Council is effectively managing risk. The Council's Risk Management Strategy details that this annual review should be presented to Council. Cabinet have responsibility for the management of risk.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1. None, as alternatives would not adhere to the adopted Risk Management Strategy.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1. Relevant managers provide regular updates on the risks that they are responsible for. The Council's Risk and Performance Management Group (RPMG) regularly review risks, especially those identified as corporate risks. The RPMG is usually attended by the Executive Member for Resources, and has standing invites to members of the Cabinet, Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1. This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision but was referred to in the Forward Plan on 15th May 2026.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. The Council's key projects, risks and performance indicators are reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis in the Council Delivery Plan report. When required, this report is also considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and can be used to guide their work programme.
- 7.2. The Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee support good governance, and receive a mid-year and end of year report on Risk Management governance. The mid-year report is referred on the Cabinet. The end of year report (this report) is referred on to Cabinet and Council.
- 7.3. The Council's approach to Risk Management is set out in the framework, which is made up of a Policy Statement, Policy, and Strategy.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. The end of year report on Risk Management governance is attached as Appendix A. The Appendix includes the following:
- The Council's approach to managing and overseeing risk (sections 3-6).
 - The corporate risks and actions taken to manage those risks (section 7)
 - An overview of service risks as those more significant service risks could become corporate risks (section 8).
 - Performance in carrying out risk reviews and training, and detailing new and archived risks (sections 9-12)
 - Activities that are part of or provide significant support to risk management (sections 13-15).
 - Action plans for improving risk management (sections 16 and 17). The FAR Committee are encouraged to consider the effectiveness of these actions.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The FAR Committee's Terms of Reference include "to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance, agree actions (where appropriate) and make recommendations to Cabinet" (Constitution 10.1.5 (t)).
- 9.2. Cabinet's Terms of Reference include "To take decisions on resources and priorities, together with other stakeholders and partners in the local community, to deliver and implement the budget and policies decided by the Full Council. To monitor performance and risk in respect of the delivery of those policies and priorities" (Constitution 5.7.3).
- 9.3. The Council's Risk Management Framework Strategy document determines that all Councillors should support and promote an effective risk management culture. It also determines that this end of year report should be referred to Council.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1. Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.

11.2. The regular review of the effectiveness of Risk Management helps ensure effective risk management.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply directly to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1. There are no direct HR implications arising from this report.

16. APPENDICES

16.1. *Appendix A- RISK MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE (YEAR-END UPDATE)*

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Rachel Cooper	Controls, Risk and Performance Manager,	rachel.cooper@north-herts.gov.uk,
Ian Couper	Director- Resources	ian.couper@north-herts.gov.uk
Ellie Hollingsworth	Policy and Strategy Officer	Ellie.hollingsworth@north-herts.gov.uk
Natasha Jindal	Legal Team Manager	Natasha.jindal@north-herts.gov.uk
Tim Everitt	Performance and Risk Officer	Tim.everitt@north-herts.gov.uk

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1. None