

Item No	Referred from:	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
6E	Date:	10 June 2026
	Title of item:	2025-26 Year End Report on Risk Management Governance
To be considered alongside agenda item:		Agenda Item 14

The report considered by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 10 June 2026 can be found here: [Agenda for Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on Wednesday, 10th June, 2026, 7.30 pm | North Herts Council](#)

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet refer the Risk Management Governance update to Full Council.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: 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.

Audio recording – 1 hour 54 minutes 55 seconds

The Director – Resources presented the report entitled '2025-26 Year End Report on Risk Management Governance' and advised that:

- Appendix A to the report contained the full detail on Risk Management Governance processes.
- The Council Delivery Plan was the primary risk monitoring method, which was presented to Cabinet quarterly and to Overview and Scrutiny Committee as requested.
- A quarterly update on the Council Delivery Plan would be provided to all Members through the Members Information Bulletin (MIB).
- There were no changes to the Risk Management framework.
- Details on how risks were mapped were outlined in paragraph 6.4 of the Appendix, with the current corporate projects and corporate risks outlined at paragraph 7.1 of the Appendix.
- There were currently 2 projects in the top red risk category, with a further 5 projects with a lower red risk rating.
- There had been limited movement of risks in year, but actions had been taken and these were outlined in bold in the table in paragraph 7.2 of the Appendix.
- The report did not just consider corporate risks, but monitoring of service risks was also considered, as outlined in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Paul Ward
- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Chris Lucas

In response to questions, the Director – Resources advised that:

- This report provided an end of year position, as at 31 March 2026, and there had been further reviews since this date which had resulted in a reduction in some risk scores.

- Regarding Financial Sustainability, this risk would reduce due to the improved financial settlement and decrease in pension contributions. However, there was potential for a new risk of high inflation, owing to ongoing global factors.
- Three projects – the King George V Skate Park, the Waste and Street Cleansing Contract and Engaging the Community on our Finances – had been completed since the end of year position and would be removed in the 2026/27 quarterly updates.
- The Museum Collection Facility project was adopted as a key project by Cabinet and therefore had been included as a corporate risk, but it was expected this risk would reduce as the project progressed.
- The Churchgate project was the biggest conducted by this Council and whilst the project was moving forward with ongoing engagement and work, at this stage it still needed to have a higher level of risk attached.

Councillor Vijaiya Poopalasingham, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Sarah Lucas seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Committee commented on the Risk Management Governance update, as attached at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet refer the Risk Management Governance update to Full Council.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: 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.