
Report To:	Audit Committee	Date:	24 October 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services	Report No:	AC/20/23/IS/APr
Contact Officer:	Andi Priestman	Contact No:	01475 712251
Subject:	ANNUAL REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY 2022-23		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to present to Committee progress made in 2022/2023 in developing and monitoring a strategic approach to managing risks faced by the Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress made in 2022/2023 to maintain a coherent corporate approach to managing risks faced by the Council.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The role of Internal Audit in Risk Management is defined as contributing to the management of risk by evaluating and providing assurance on risk management processes. The assurance extends principally to two main areas, firstly that major business risks are being managed and secondly that the Risk Management and Internal Control Framework is operating effectively.
- 3.2 The responsibility for managing risk lies not with Internal Audit but with service management, with corporate consistency being supported through the Corporate Management Team.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 During 2022/2023 the Council continued to value the importance of maintaining the momentum on risk management and progress has been made in the following areas:

- Ongoing review and update of strategic and operational risk registers by Services.
- Maintaining a risk register for the Financial Strategy which allows management to consider the risks to the overall financial position arising from matters contained within the Financial Strategy.
- Maintaining risk management as a key aspect of the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework.
- Continuing the advancement of emergency planning, crisis management and business continuity within the Council and fulfil the Council's legislative requirements under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 in conjunction with the Joint Civil Contingencies Service.
- Promoting the e-learning module on Risk Management for employees as part of the corporate e-learning training platform.
- Incorporating risk registers within the 2023/2026 Committee Delivery and Improvement Plans.
- Implementing Cyber Security e-learning training to raise awareness of cyber security risks for new and existing employees.
- Implementing relevant fraud risk reviews as part of the 2022/2023 Internal Audit Plan and progress has been reported on a regular basis to Audit Committee.
- Recognising as part of the ongoing review of the Council's Local Code of Governance the need to review the Council's overall arrangements for risk management. This review is complete and a revised Risk Management Strategy will be presented to the Audit Committee as a separate item on the agenda for this meeting.

4.2 Members are asked to note the continued progress in maintaining the momentum on risk management.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk	X	
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

Effective risk management is an essential element of good management and a sound system of internal control and is a key contributor to good governance and the Annual Governance Statement.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no human resources implications arising directly from this report.

5.5 Strategic

The risk management framework enables the Council to effectively manage strategic decision-making, service planning and delivery to safeguard the wellbeing of its stakeholders. The likelihood of achieving outcomes is also increased.

This report helps ensure strong governance, and its findings will help support delivery of the Council Plan adopted by Inverclyde Council on 20 April 2023, and in particular outcome theme 3: Performance, with the Council seeking to provide high quality and innovative services that deliver value for money.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Relevant officers have been consulted on the report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Risk Management Strategy.