



REPORT TO: Grampian Valuation Joint Board on 30 June 2023

SUBJECT: Risk Management

BY: Depute Assessor & ERO (Aberdeen & Moray)

1. Reason for Report

1.1 To report to the Board on risk management.

2. Recommendation

2.1 **The Board note the risk register and the plans for future reviews.**

3. Background

3.1 The Board's Code of Corporate Governance requires the identification and prioritisation of risks to the organisation's aims and objectives; the evaluation of the risks being realised and the resultant impact and finally the management of risks.

3.2 The Risk Register is subject to ongoing review with reports submitted to the Board on an annual basis.

3.3 Apart from ongoing reviews by individual risk owners, the Management Team has an overall role in reviewing the register.

4. Current Position

4.1 The strategic risk register that is provided as an appendix was formally reviewed by the Management Team on 30 May 2023 and reflects the position as at that date. No new risks were identified at this meeting.

4.2 A summary of the risk status is provided in the table below.

Risk Rating	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
High	3	4	3	4	2	2	2
Moderate	3	3	3	3	2	1	0
Low	4	4	5	5	7	7	8
Tolerable	12	12	12	12	13	14	14
Obsolete	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Total number of live risks	22	23	23	24	24	24	24

4.3 “High” level risks

- 4.3.1 The number of “High” level risks has remained the same since the last report to the Board.
- 4.3.2 Risk 1g (Environmental controls for IT Server accommodation inadequate) was reported to the Board previously and mitigation in terms of monitoring has continued. Changes in working practices and the migration of IT services which have been carried out so far with Aberdeenshire Council has reduced the load on this equipment and the heat generated by it. The requirement for this equipment is expected to disappear following the completion of the migration of IT services to Aberdeenshire Council infrastructure but the current risk status remains “High”, particularly due to Banff being the Board’s disaster recovery site.
- 4.3.3 Risk 6a (Inadequate numbers of trained/skilled staff to fulfil statutory functions) remains at “High”, reflecting the continuing difficulties the organisation has faced in the recruitment of surveying personnel. However, a further round of advertising for qualified surveyors had a closing date of 26 June and it is also envisaged that existing members of the technical staff will transition to valuer roles under the graduate apprenticeship program with Napier University.

4.4 “Moderate” level risks

- 4.4.1 In the last report to the Board, Risk 5i was the only risk identified as having a “Moderate” overall rating. Following a review, this risk has now been reduced to “Low” (see below). Accordingly, there are now no risks with a “Moderate” rating.

4.5 “Low” level risks

- 4.5.1 One risk has been reduced to the “Low” level.
- 4.5.2 Although Risk 5i (Introduction of Registration policy changes) is still a live issue with The Elections Act 2022 introducing a number of challenges for the organisation, the changes the Act brings in are now known and plans and processes are now in place to handle them. Close working with partner organisations including the Electoral Registration Committee of the Scottish Assessors Association, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Returning Officers and Idox (the provider of the Electoral Management System) is still required, along with careful and targeted messaging to electors.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 **The identification, evaluation and control of risk are continuous processes and remain live issues for the Management Team and the organisation as a whole. The risk rating profile over time reflects the challenges that face many public sector organisations along with the responses of the organisation to those challenges. The risk register provides a useful quantitative assessment that allows stakeholders to evaluate the capacity of the organisation to maintain operational effectiveness.**

- 5.2 The risk owners and members of the Management Team actively review the risks and controls and also seek to identify and assess additional risks that may impact the organisation.**
- 5.3 The risk register will be formally reviewed by the Management Team at their next meeting.**

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