



**REPORT TO:** Grampian Valuation Joint Board on 26 August 2022

**SUBJECT:** Risk Management

**BY:** The Assessor & ERO

**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 28 April 2022 and reflects the position as at that date.

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

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

#### 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 previously and mitigation in terms of monitoring has continued. The requirement for this equipment is being reviewed as part of the ongoing discussions with Aberdeenshire Council regarding the management and migration of the Board’s IT services.
- 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. The Board is currently advertising for qualified and graduate level surveyors, with closing dates for applications during June.

#### 4.4 “Moderate” level risks

- 4.4.1 The number of risks with a ‘Moderate’ overall rating has reduced from 2 to 1 since the last report to the Board.
- 4.4.2 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. Close working with partner organisations including the Electoral Registration Committee of the Scottish Assessors Association, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Idox (the provider of the Electoral Management System) will be required, in addition to careful messaging to electors.

#### 4.5 “Low” level risks

- 4.5.1 One risk has been reduced to the “Low” level.
- 4.5.2 Risk 6c (Over-reliance upon a small number of key Information Technology & Systems specialists) has been reduced to “Low” following the recruitment of an additional IT Analyst in November 2021 and the introduction of a comprehensive service level agreement (SLA) with Aberdeenshire Council to manage the Board’s IT systems. The SLA with Aberdeenshire Council means that the Board now has the full support of Aberdeenshire Council’s IT team in addition to specialist 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors.

### **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 As the organisation emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic, the risk owners and members of the Management Team are actively reviewing risk status and also seeking to identify and assess additional risks that impact on the organisation.
- 5.3 The risks will be formally reviewed at the next meeting of the Management Team.

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