REPORT TO:	**Grampian Valuation Joint Board on 18 June 2021**
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 **It is recommended that the Board consider and 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 8 October 2020 and reflects the position as at that date. In mid-March 2020 the formalised Management, Technical and Administrative Team meeting cycle was suspended with operational management of the organisation operating under contingency arrangements with the Covid Crisis Management Team (CCMT) meeting daily initially to focus resources on business continuity. As the organisation adapted to the new working practices, the meeting frequency of the CCMT reduced to twice weekly. It is anticipated that the formal Management, Technical and Administrative Team meeting cycle will be reinstated this month.

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

Risk Rating	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
High	2	3	3	4	3	4	2
Moderate	4	3	3	3	3	3	2
Low	2	3	4	4	5	5	7
Tolerable	14	12	12	12	12	12	13
Obsolete	8	9	9	9	9	9	9
Total number of live risks	**22**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**23**	**24**	**24**

"High" level risks

4.3   The number of high level risks has reduced from 4 to 2 since the last report to the Board.

4.4   Risks 1g (Environmental controls for IT Server accommodation inadequate) was reported previously and mitigation in terms of monitoring has continued.

4.5   Risk 6a (Inadequate numbers of trained/skilled staff to fulfil statutory functions) remains at High, reflecting the ongoing difficulties the organisation has faced in the recruitment of surveying personnel.

"Moderate" level risks

4.6   The number of risks with a 'moderate' overall rating has reduced from 3 to 2 since the last report to the Board.

4.7   Risk 5i (Introduction of Registration policy changes) is still a live issue and continues to challenge the organisation.

4.8   Risk 6c (Over-reliance upon a small number of key Information Technology & Systems specialists) has remained at Moderate but additional mitigation is now in place with IT support now being provided by Aberdeenshire Council staff since April 2021.

"Low" level risks

4.9   Three risks have have been reduced to the Low level.

4.10   Risk 5e (A strategic shift in the taxation ethos), formerly assessed as a Moderate risk, has been reduced to Low, reflecting that the non-domestic taxation position has been settled with the implementation of the Non Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020. The position regarding Council Tax is less certain and requires to be monitored.

4.11   Risk 5g (Board fails to make adequate requistions), formerly assessed as a High risk, has been re-described and reduced to Low following the settlement of the 2020/21 budget and funding position.

4.12   Following the successful implementation of the Business Continuity Plan during the pandemic, Risk 5h (Inadequate business continuity planning), formerly assessed as a Moderate risk, has been reduced to Low due to a reassessment of the quality and effectiveness of the controls which are in place.

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 continues to meet the challenges caused by 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.

Author of Report: Mark J Adam