

**REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: 18 September 2023

REPORT TITLE: CLIMATE CHANGE RISK REGISTER

DIRECTOR: ROGER HOARE

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Purpose of Report

- 1 To present the current Climate Change Risk Register.

Recommendation

- 2 For Audit Committee to note and comment on the Climate Change Risk Register

Background / Issues for Consideration

- 3 At the Audit Committee held in March 2023, a timetable for regular review of selected risk registers was approved for consideration at future Audit Committee meetings.
- 4 The forward timetable is as follows:
 - 2023 Q3 – Climate Risk Register
 - 2023 Q4 – Business & Skills Risk Register
 - 2024 Q1 – Strategy & Innovation Risk Register
- 5 Regular review of directorate risk registers takes place and informs updates to the mitigation activity underway.
- 6 Further refinement of governance and risk management arrangements are underway through the corporate governance board. This work will lead to proposals to update the risk management framework, establishing our risk appetite and refreshing the corporate risk register.

Climate Change Risk Register

- 7 As agreed in March, the climate change risk register is brought for review and is attached at Appendix A.
- 8 Current most significant /active risk/mitigations/notables are:
 - a. The SW Electricity Grid and the associated transition network aren't fit for purpose and are constraining investment in net zero solutions;

- b. Sustainability needs to be a critical consideration in everything the region invests in if it is to deliver on Net Zero and Nature Recovery ambitions;
- c. Without business and resident support for the delivery of Net Zero and Nature Recovery we won't succeed; and
- d. Inadequate resourcing will prevent the region building its resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Consultation

- 9 The risk registers are produced in consultation with risk and mitigation owners. Escalation follows project and programme reviews of the risks and mitigations, into the directorate risk registers and the corporate risk register.

Other Options Considered

- 10 None, Audit Committee have asked to be kept informed.

Risk Management/Assessment

- 11 Without a formal risk management framework and processes we will be unable to anticipate and take preventative action to avoid risk and it is likely we may then incur time and additional cost in managing the consequences of unplanned events.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 12 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

Finance Implications, including economic impact assessment where appropriate:

- 13 The overarching monitoring and evaluation framework provides assurance that limited resources will be utilised to their best effect to ensure activity is appropriate and proportionate.

Advice given by: Selonge Russell, Head of Finance and Deputy Section 73 Officer

Legal Implications:

- 14 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 state that "A relevant authority (the Council) must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which includes effective arrangements for the management of risk". The risk management framework meets this requirement and is an essential part of good governance for the Combined Authority.

Advice given by: Daniel Dickinson, Interim Director of Legal Services

Climate Change Implications

- 15 The entire report is focused on these implications and their management.

Land/property Implications

- 16 *n/a*

Human Resources Implications:

- 17 None arising from this report. If specific workforce risks are identified they will be managed in line with policy and best practice in consultation with the Human Resources Team.

Advice given by: Alex Holly, Head of People and Assets

Appendices:

Appendix A – West of England Combined Authority Climate Risk Register

Background papers: n/a

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

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