

A8. Corporate Risk Management Update

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting an updated Corporate Risk Register (CRR) which took account of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The global Covid-19 pandemic had changed the landscape within which the Council operates. The Corporate Risk Register had been updated to include new Covid-19 related risks and to update those risks which had been altered by the pandemic.

The report set out, as appendices, the Risk Management Dashboard, the Corporate Risk Register and the Corporate Risk Assurance map. It also provided details of an Executive 'deep dive' programme.

Subject to the considerations of the committee, the report would be referred to the Emergency Executive for approval.

In summarising the report, the Chief Finance Officer added that while Covid-19 clearly had been and would continue to be significant, the impact of Brexit would also be have the capacity to be a 'game change'.

The committee commented that there wasn't a sense of the impact on Brexit within the report an appendices. Mr Smail stated that it was very much on the radar. It had been identified as high risk and a number of mitigations had been put in place. He noted that a Brexit Group had been established and this group had been proactive in assessing risks and mitigations.

The committee discussed the various governance groups which were currently in operation. Members questioned whether 19 governance groups were necessary or effective and whether there had been a review of the groups. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that there had been a review and the number was kept under continual review. Of the groups some were short life and some had very narrow terms of reference. While acknowledging the need for such groups in an organisation the size of Falkirk Council, the Chief Finance Officer accepted the point being made about the need for continual review.

The Chief Executive, in agreeing with the points being made, stated that during Covid-19 members and officers had learned new ways of working – whether that was working from home, attending meetings remotely and relying less on paper – and stated that it was vital that the Council took the learning points from this experience and that it didn't fall back on the old, bureaucratic ways from before.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the Risk Dashboard and Corporate Risk Register set out as appendices 1 and 2 to the report;**

- (2) noted that Services were developing 2020/21 Assurance Statements, linked to COVID-19 Recovery Plans;**
- (3) noted the Corporate Risk Assurance Map attached as appendix 3 to the report;**
- (4) noted the proposed Corporate Risk Register Deep Dive Review Program (included at Appendix 3 to the report); and**
- (5) agreed to refer the report to the Emergency Executive, for consideration and approval of the Corporate Risk Register and Corporate Risk Register Deep Dive Review Program.**