

AC25. Strategic Risk Register

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer which provided an update on the IJB's strategic risk register. No new risks had been added to the register since the last version presented to the Audit Committee on 23 September 2022. As a result, there were 9 live risks recorded in the register, 8 were considered as high risk and 1 as medium risk.

The Chief Finance Officer highlighted that future risk score had been amended for two of the nine strategic risks -the capacity and infrastructure risk and the commissioning risk - due to the economic, workforce and financial pressures within the wider system. These wider pressures were unlikely to change in the short-term and future risk score reflected that uncertainty. Within appendix 1, an untreated risk score was recorded, as if there had been no controls in place. These untreated scores had been reviewed in light of the current operating environment.

The Chief Finance Officer noted that version of strategic risk 9, which was in relation to Primary Care risk, within the report was a dated version. The updated risk had been due to be considered by the NHS Forth Valley Board in December and an update would be provided at a future meeting.

In response to a point made by the Chief Internal Auditor regarding setting review dates for the 9 risks, the Chief Finance Officer said that discussions had been ongoing with the respective risk management teams for Falkirk Council and NHS Forth Valley about developing the strategic risk register to make it more robust. Looking at adding review dates for the 9 risks had been included in those discussions.

The Chief Internal Auditor expressed surprise that the Health Board had been leading on Primary Care risk, which was a delegated function and said that this is something they would work on with the Health Board. The Chief Officer noted that the Health Board would continue to have the responsibility for the contracting arrangements for Primary Care however that the operational transfer of delegated functions in relation to Primary Care was due to be completed in January 2023. The Chief Officer said that discussions would take place with colleagues in the NHS regarding the lead role in relation to Primary Care Risk.

In response to a question about the pace at which the strategic risk register could be updated, the Chief Finance Officer said that in addition to the strategic risk register being considered by the Audit Committee, the register had been regularly considered at meetings of the Senior Leadership Team and had been regularly review by them. The Chief Finance Officer assured the Committee that if there were any significant or urgent changes to the register, then this could be reviewed by the Chief Officer under their delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Integration Joint Board.

Decision

The Committee noted the high-level summary of the strategic risk register presented at section 4.1 of the report and the detailed strategic risk register.