Audit Committee Meeting	Agenda Item:
Meeting Date	14 March 2018
Report Title	Risk Management Update 2017/18
Cabinet Member	Cllr Andrew Bowles - Leader
SMT Lead	Nick Vickers – Chief Finance Officer
Head of Service	Rich Clarke – Head of Audit Partnership
Lead Officer	Russell Heppleston – Deputy Head of Audit Partnership
Key Decision	No
Classification	**Open**
Forward Plan	**Reference number:** N/A
Recommendations	1. That the Audit Committee **notes** the Corporate Level Risks for Swale Borough Council and provides **comments** on the operation of the risk management framework.

1   Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1   The purpose of this report is to provide information to members of the Audit Committee on the Council's risk management arrangements. As those charged with governance, the Committee must seek assurance over the effectiveness of the operation of the process.

1.2   Since the implementation of a new risk management framework in July 2015 a great deal of work has been undertaken to embed stronger risk management and to ensure that all of the Council's risks are captured and managed using the comprehensive risk register. As part of this work we have worked with Strategic Management Team (SMT) and Heads of Service to identify and assess the corporate level risks facing the Council as it strives to deliver the Corporate Plan. This report provides a summary of these key risks.

1.3   The report is attached in appendix I.

2   Background

2.1   Since implementing the **risk management framework** in July 2015 we have been providing regular updates to Officers and Member on key risks, and the actions being taken to address and manage those risks. For Members, these updates have focussed on the corporate level risks as those that are more strategic in nature.

2.2   We (Mid Kent Audit) have been working with the Council over the course of the year (2017/18) to update and maintain the comprehensive risk register. Including refreshing the corporate risks, and continued reporting and communication of key risk information. The most recent update was to Informal Cabinet November 2017 and SMT in February 2018.

2.3   The work to implement and embed processes and procedures is largely complete, but we continue to work with the Council to create a positive risk culture, and ensure that the risk management process adds value. It is appropriate that risk information is reported to Members, via Audit Committee. The attached report (appendix I) is the second update report this Committee and seeks to bring members up to date with the work undertaken over 2017/18.

3   Proposal

3.1   Effective risk management is a key component of sound governance. This Committee, as those charged with governance, must gain assurance that the Council is operating an effective risk management process, and that risks are being managed.

3.2   We therefore propose that the Committee notes the arrangements in place and provides comments on the operation of the risk management process. We also propose that the Committee notes the corporate level risks as outlined in the report (appendix I) as the risks identified as being of strategic importance and linked to the achievement of the Corporate Plan.

4   Alternative Options

4.1   In order for any risk management process to be effective it is vital that risk information is reported, that risks are monitored and that action is taken to manage risks to an acceptable level. Reporting risks to Members is necessary to provide assurance that risks are being managed.

4.2   An alternative option would be to not report or monitor risks, but this would counter the effectiveness of the process, and would go against the terms of reference for this Committee.

5   Consultation Undertaken

5.1   The risk management framework was designed through consultation with SMT and more broadly through consultation with Heads of Service.

5.2   All risk owners have been involved in the identification and assessment of the risks on the register.

6   Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Effective risk management is part of the Council's governance framework. The purpose of the risk management process is to ensure that key risks are identified and appropriately managed as the Council pursues its Corporate objectives.
Financial, Resource and Property	Investment in developing risk management arrangements are being met from existing resources within the Mid Kent Audit partnership. No implications identified at this stage.
Legal and Statutory	None identified at this stage
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage
Sustainability	None identified at this stage
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage
Risk Management and Health and Safety	This report is about risk management. No H&S implications identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage

7   Appendices

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Risk Management Update 2017/18

8   Background Papers

None