



SOUTH EAST DEVON
HABITAT REGULATIONS
PARTNERSHIP

South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee

Risk Register Report

*Andy Wood,
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East Devon District Council,
April 2021*



Exeter
City Council



Legal comment/advice:

The legal considerations are included within the report. Legal Services will assist with any further issues on which advice may be needed as they are raised.

Finance comment/advice:

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Public Document:	Yes
Exemption:	None
Review date for release	None

Recommendations.

It is proposed that the Executive Committee:

1. **Notes the identification, categorisation and prioritisation of risks as recorded in the accompanying Risk Register, associated with delivery of the South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy.**
2. **Notes the ongoing Severe risk posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.**
3. **Notes the control measures in place to mitigate the risks identified.**
4. **Receives an updated Risk Register report in 12 months.**

Equalities impact: Low

Risk: Medium/High.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic remains the highest risk (Severe) to the majority of the categories used in this assessment. There is cause for optimism but it is appropriate to undertake a cautious approach and continue to recognise the potential for future impacts. Additionally, there remain a number of risks which have the potential for high strategic and operational impact, if not carefully addressed. Continued partnership working, use of updated housing forecasts and keeping updated on changes in the operational environment will assist in mitigating these risks. Continued and effective delivery of the Strategy and the development this enables remains of very high importance to all partners.

1 Summary

1.1 As part of the project development of the South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy (“the Strategy”), a detailed risk register (see Appendix A) is used to take account of the various categories of risk that exist or emerge in all elements of the Strategy. This was developed as part of a set risk management process.

1.2 It is important to note that the purpose of a risk register is to record the details of all risks that have been identified along with their analysis and plans for how those risks will be treated. It does not necessarily mean that the risks will be realised or are expected to occur (unless specifically noted).

1.3 The purpose of the report is to update members of SEDHREC on the status of the risk management register and the status of risk management across the partner authorities at this time.

1.4 The register now also includes “inactive” risks which have either expired or are no longer considered a risk to the delivery of the Strategy.

2. Identifying Risks

2.1 Risk is categorised in relation to the aims and objectives of SEDHREC (i.e. delivering the Strategy). The main categories used in this register are:

- Strategic;
- Operational;
- Financial;
- People;
- Regulatory;
- Governance.

2.2 Strategic: This considers external risks which may affect the aims and objectives of SEDHREC - such as changes in the environment within which it operates.

2.3 Operational: This considers the risks which arise from the services delivered or the activities carried out.

2.4 Financial: This section considers any potential financial risks facing the organisation in terms of internal systems, planning, funding, etc.

2.5 People: These risks are associated with the employment of staff and the involvement of volunteers.

2.6 Regulatory: These risks consider the legislative framework within which SEDHREC operates.

2.7 Governance: This section identifies the risks which are part of the management of SEDHREC.

There may be a degree of overlap between some of these categories.

Classification

3.0 In addition to the identification of risks as outlined above in 2.0 – 2.6, risks to the successful implementation of the Strategy are also categorised. The probability of a risk occurring and the potential impact of that risk is assessed and recorded on a scoring matrix (see Appendix B). This assigns categories accordingly:

- **Minor** (1 to 4)
- **Moderate** (5 to 8)
- **Major** (9 to 12)
- **Severe** (13 to 16)

3.1 The matrix shown in Appendix B illustrates that the Covid-19 pandemic poses a Severe risk to the delivery of the Strategy.

3.2 There are 4 further risks classified as Major for their potential impact and probability of occurring. They are:

- Proposed SANGS at Cranbrook do not meet essential criteria.
- Habitat Regulations watered down / abolished following exit from European Union.
- Delays to mitigation measures identified in annual business plans
- HREC decisions not implemented at local level.

3.3 Mitigation of each of these identified risks are described within the risk register itself (see Appendix A). The register is as updated from April 2020 and will continue to be updated and reported to the Committee on a regular basis.

3.4 Should any further risks to delivery of the Strategy be assessed as Severe at any stage, this will be reported to the Officer Working Group and SEDHREC as and when necessary.

3.5 Income forecasts are reported separately¹. For the sake of caution, a recessionary housing completion model has been assumed for the next 3 years. Given the current balance of funding available this is not expected to adversely affect mitigation proposals over the next 5 years. It is, however, prudent to maintain oversight according to the yearly review.

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Natural England comment:

EU environmental law continues to have effect in UK law and existing levels of environmental protection are maintained. The Environment Bill 2020 sets out the new framework for environmental governance and is expected to receive Royal Assent in autumn 2021. Natural England will advise if changes to legislation could impact the work of the Partnership.

¹ 2021 Finance report, 2021-22 Annual Business Plan and 5 Yr Delivery Plan.