

Report to: Audit and Governance Committee



Date of Meeting 19 March 2026

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Risk Report

Report summary:

The latest risk information is provided to allow the Audit and Governance Committee to monitor the risk status of Strategic and Operational Risks. This follows a review of risks by responsible officers (Risk Owners) in conjunction with the Interim Corporate Lead – Programmes and Strategies during February 2026.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That the Audit and Governance Committee reviews and considers the Strategic and Operational Risks as part of the Council's responsibility to ensure all risks are being monitored, and that control actions are implemented by Directorates and Services across the Authority.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure its activities are delivered effectively, and that audit and compliance requirements are met, it is important that East Devon District Council anticipates, identifies and manages relevant risks at a strategic and operational level. Monitoring risks and maintaining a Risk Register allows risks to be systematically tracked and progress of implementing control actions is monitored. These are essential practices that underpin good governance, help to ensure service continuity and is part of the responsible management of the Council.

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Portfolios:

- Assets and Economy
- Communications and Democracy
- Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- Environment - Nature and Climate
- Environment - Operational
- Finance
- Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: High Risk; Failure to identify, assess, monitor, review and manage risks could impact negatively (i.e. financial, reputational, operationally) on the council

Links to background information

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- A supported and engaged community
 - Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
 - Resilient economy that supports local business
 - Financially secure and improving quality of services
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Report in full

- 1.1 The last report to the Audit & Governance Committee was provided in July 2025 prior to the departure of the Interim Performance and Risk Team Leader. Since that time Risk is the responsibility of the Interim Corporate Lead – Programmes and Strategies (who joined EDDC in late January 2026).
- 1.2 It is noted that the expectation expressed in the July 2025 meeting was that a quarterly report would be presented to the Committee to ensure regular oversight. This regime can now be reinstated with the reallocation of managing the risk register.
- 1.3 The Council is introducing a new system for managing and reporting both performance and risk. InPhase is a software package which provides the new basis for risk management as well as to streamline our management systems, support continuous improvement and enhance transparency.
- 1.4 **Strategic Risks** – there are a total of 18 risks on the Strategic Risk Register split between Governance (9 risks), Housing and Health (5), Finance (2), Place (1) and the Chief Executive (1).
- 1.5 Appendix A provides a report as of 1st March 2026; the mitigated risks are presented with 13 Medium and 5 Low Risk. There are no risks classed as High.
- 1.6 **Operational Risks** – there 106 risks on the Operational Risk Register. Risks with a mitigated risk rating of High are noted below:
 - a. Pla22 – Place (Planning Policy): risk associated with failing to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply. Risk Owner Comments: Government changes to housing requirements have significantly worsened our housing land supply position.
 - b. Pla24 – Place (Development Management): risk of a lack of sufficient income from Community Infrastructure Levy, resulting in a lack of funding needed to deliver the required infrastructure, which may hold up development projects. Risk Owner Comments: A review of CIL is needed but ultimately CIL will never be sufficient to fund the necessary infrastructure and we need to ensure that we do all we can to attract government and other funding for infrastructure projects.

- c. Pla33 – Place (Streetscene): risking of the recycling and waste contractors failing to deliver the service through staff shortages, strike action, company liquidation, legal prohibitions and/or other similar circumstances that render this contractor unable to continue with the contract. Additional risk from the move from the current contract to a new service delivery model. Risk Owner Comments: Current transition to LATCo of East Devon Environmental Services Ltd. Full project management approach with it's own risk register is underway. Risk is heightened due to number of critical path actions required for LATCo to be safe and legal on 1st July 2026. Plans are in place.

1.7 More information is provided in Appendix B. The mitigated risks are presented with 64 having a Medium mitigated risk rating and 37 with a low mitigated risk rating. One change for Members to note is Operational Risk reference FIN8, relating to the delivery of the new finance system, which is shown in the Appendix for information (as it was included in the previous report to the Committee) but is now to be deleted.

Financial implications:

There are no financial comments contained within this report.

Legal implications:

It is important that Members are regularly updated on the organisation's key strategic risks.