

Agenda Item	<b>12</b>
Report No	<b>CCC/09/22</b>

## The Highland Council

<b>Committee:</b>	Climate Change Committee
<b>Date:</b>	3 November 2022
<b>Report Title:</b>	Climate Change Corporate Risk
<b>Report By:</b>	Executive Chief Officer – Performance & Governance

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Corporate Risk Register identifies the Council's key strategic risks and the actions being taken to mitigate these. This report sets out proposed revisions to the Corporate Risk Register in respect of the climate and ecological emergency.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- I. Agree the revised risk template on Climate Change and Ecological Emergency at Appendix 1 of the report for inclusion in the Council's Corporate Risk Register.
  - II. Note the revised template will also come to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee at the end of November.
  - III. Note a Service Risk Register will be developed detailing risks and actions at an operational level.
  - IV. Agree Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Risks will be considered by the Climate Change Committee on a quarterly basis.

### 3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource – Having a robust approach to risk management will continue to help the Council minimise future financial risks and implications.
- 3.2 Legal – The Corporate Risk Register supports the Chief Audit Executive (the Corporate Audit Manager) to provide an annual internal audit opinion that concludes on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - Having a Council which is resilient to risk means that it is better positioned to support its communities. The actions detailed on the register will reduce the likelihood and potential impact of risks affecting our communities.
- 3.4 Climate Change/Carbon CLEVER – This report sets out proposed revisions to the Corporate Risk Register in respect of the climate and ecological emergency.
- 3.5 Risk – The corporate risk management process reduces the Council's exposure to risk by ensuring that corporate risks are identified and proactively managed.
- 3.6 Gaelic – There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

#### **4. Corporate Risk Register**

- 4.1 As part of the risk management process, Highland Council has a Corporate Risk Register which considers risks to delivery of corporate priorities, or which have the potential to impact multiple Council Services. This is reviewed at least every three months by the Executive Leadership Team and is presented to every Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting. Overall responsibility for Corporate Risk sits with the Chief Executive.
- 4.2 There are currently 16 risks on the Corporate Risk Register with Corporate Risk 7 focused on Climate Change.
- 4.3 At the meeting of The Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 ([item 5](#)), it was agreed that Corporate Risk 7: Climate Change would be reviewed, and any revisions brought back to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- 4.4 The proposed refreshed Corporate Risk for Climate Change is detailed in Appendix 1 of the report for consideration by the Climate Change Committee.
- 4.5 It is proposed that a Service Risk Register will be developed detailing risks and actions at an operational level.
- 4.6 Corporate Risk 7: Climate Change and Ecological Emergency will be reviewed regularly by officers and presented at every Climate Change Committee.

**Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Performance & Governance**

**Date: 27 October 2022**

**Author: Neil Osborne, Climate Change & Energy Team Manager, Fiona Daschofsky, Net Zero Programme Manager**

Appendix 1

CR7	Climate Change and the Ecological Emergency		Risk Rating	
			Current	Target
Risk Owner: ECO Performance & Governance		Risk Type: Environmental, Physical, Reputational, Political, Economic, Social, Health	B2	C3
Climate change and biodiversity loss presents long term challenges both to the Council and to Highland communities. The Council must adapt and build resilience and its communities to address vulnerabilities to the potential effects of climate change (e.g., changing weather patterns, sea level rise) and ecological loss.				
Mitigating Actions:		Responsible Officer	Target Date	RAG
CR7.1	Contribute to Highland Adapts to support the production of a regional wide climate risk and opportunity assessment. Take an evidence-based and place-centred approach to inform the regions adaptation actions.	Climate Change & Energy Team Manager	May 2024	G
CR7.4	Develop net zero strategy and action plan with quarterly progress updates to Committee	Climate Change & Energy Team Manager	March 2023	G
CR7.5	Net zero corporate emissions: Agree target date for net zero corporate carbon emissions with quarterly progress updates to Committee, beginning with the energy performance benchmarking of Council properties.	Climate Change & Energy Team Manager	March 2023	G
CR7.6	Develop a Council Natural Environment & Ecological Strategy emphasising the interconnectedness of the twin climate and ecological emergency and rationalise ongoing and future Council commitments, projects and activities that will help halt biodiversity loss and deliver biodiversity enhancements. The Strategy will include a Council Vision that will be supported by a suite of deliverables, objectives and targets.	Service Lead – Environment, Development Plans & Active Travel	December 2023	G

CR7.7	Mitigate potential increases in both use and cost of energy by enhanced investment in renewable energy and transformational projects, and expanding energy saving initiatives with quarterly progress reports to committee.	Energy Manager	March 2023	<b>G</b>
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**Notes:**  
 Title: Changed to include 'and the Ecological Emergency'  
 Description: Amended  
 Risk type: Additional risks added  
 CR7.1 Amended  
 CR7.4-5 Target date amended  
 CR7.6-7 New additions proposed for inclusion in Corporate Risk Register



