

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

Report to:	Governance and Audit Committee
Date of meeting:	3rd June 2021
Title:	Corporate Risk Register
Purpose of the report:	To update the Governance and Audit Committee on the Corporate Risk Register
Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member	Cllr. Ray Quant, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Customer Contact, Governance & Legal Services and People & Organisation

Regular reports are provided to the Governance and Audit Committee regarding the Council's Corporate Risk Register to provide on-going information and assurance that risks continue to be managed. This assists the Governance and Audit Committee in their role of providing independent assurance to Council and management of the adequacy of the risk management framework. Appendix A contains the latest Corporate Risk Register.

Since March 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic reached Wales, the Council's response to the Covid-19 outbreak has taken priority. Risk R018 sets out the details of the risk and the mitigating actions that are required to reduce the spread of the disease in Ceredigion.

All risks have been reviewed and include updated commentary. Governance and Audit Committee are asked to note the following changes to the Register since the last update:

- R003 Corporate Improvement and Performance – the overall risk score has increased mainly due to the introduction of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act in April 2021. The Act introduces a new performance regime for principal councils based on self-assessment and requires a new process to be developed during 2021/22 to support its introduction. The score has therefore increased from 9 to 12 on the register.
- R016 Brexit – the risk score has decreased to reflect the latest situation regarding the risks associated with leaving the EU, and in particular that leaving with a deal has mitigated the risks significantly. The Council continues to monitor the impact of Brexit via a sub group of officers, which reports to Leadership Group.
- Risk 19 – Climate Change and Coastal Erosion / Flooding. This is a new risk combining the previous risks of Carbon Management (R012) and Coastal Erosion

(R013) into an overarching risk on climate change. The new risk includes the wider implications of climate change such as increased instances of flooding, drought and storms. The Council recognises it needs to lead by example and address these risks. Mitigating actions are in place including the development of a Corporate Climate Change Strategy and action plan detailing how the Council will achieve net carbon zero by 2030. Given the potential impacts and likelihood, this risk has been scored as 25 on the register.

- Risk 20 – Ash Dieback is a new risk this quarter reflecting the significant impact that the Ash Dieback Disease could have across Ceredigion and Wales. It is estimated that there are 42,000 mature Ash trees along the county roads alone and a further 10,000 on the Council’s Corporate Estate. Ash Dieback is already widespread and visible across the County. Mitigating actions have been put in place including the production of an action plan, a steering group set up along with a survey of high priority areas to identify locations of Ash trees and their condition.
- Risks R004 Business Continuity, R005 Medium Term Financial Plan, R006 Through Age & Well-being Programme, R009 Information Management - Security, R015 Support Local Food Businesses, R017 Safeguarding and R018 Covid-19 have no changes to risk scores since last reported, but mitigating actions have been reviewed and the commentary updated.

Recommendations (s): That Governance and Audit Committee consider the updated Corporate Risk Register

Reason for decision: To ensure that the Council manages Corporate Risks appropriately in line with the Corporate Risk Strategy and Framework

Appendices: Appendix A – Corporate Risk Register

Corporate Lead Officer: Alun Williams (Corporate Leader Officer Policy, Performance and Public Protection)

Reporting Officer: Alun Williams (Corporate Leader Officer Policy, Performance and Public Protection)

Date: 11 May 2021

Corporate Risk Register














Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council




Governance and Audit Committee




Reviewed and updated by Leadership Group	12/05/2021
Last Monitored by Audit Committee	24/02/2021
Next Audit Committee	03/06/2021

Corporate Risk Register

Contents and Summary

Risk Name	Owner	Risk Rating
R003: Corporate Improvement and Performance Management Arrangements	Alun Williams	12 
R004: Business Continuity and Civil Contingency	Alun Williams	10 
R005: Medium Term Financial Plan	Stephen Johnson	15 
R006: Through Age & Well-being Programme	Caroline Lewis	15 
R009: Information Management - Security	Arwyn Morris	8 
R015: Supporting Local Food Businesses and Impact on the Economy	Alun Williams	16 
R016: BREXIT Consequences	Alun Williams	12 
R017: Safeguarding Vulnerable Children, Young People and Adults	Sian Howys	15 
R018: Covid-19	Alun Williams	25 
R019: Climate Change and Coastal Erosion/Flooding (New Risk)	Russell Hughes-Pickering / Rhodri Llwyd	25 
R020: Ash Dieback (New Risk)	Rhodri Lloyd	20 

Risk Key		
	Red	High Risk
	Amber	Medium Risk
	Green	Low Risk

Action Key		
	Red	Start date passed but NOT started End Date passed but NOT complete
	Amber	In progress but Behind schedule In progress on schedule but NOT meeting Targets
	Green	In Progress On Schedule and meeting Targets Completed

Corporate Risk R003 Corporate Improvement & Performance

Owner: CLO Alun Williams

Description

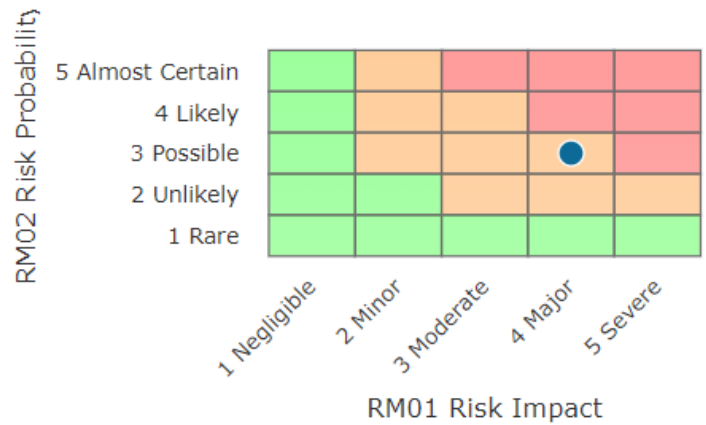
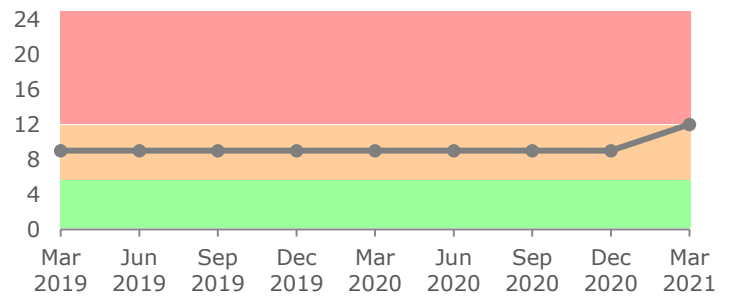
Failure to ensure that Performance Management arrangements are fit for purpose to meet our future priority needs and failure to support the implementation of a new Corporate Performance Management System will impact on our ability to use effective business intelligence in future decision making processes.

Potential Consequence

The main consequences for the Council are reputational, political and poorer service delivery for citizens of the County. This could lead to poor regulatory reports, intervention, as well as a reduction in budget.

Evidence of Risk

Potential risks remain in terms of delivery and poorer service for customers, as services make savings. Good financial planning and corporate performance management's arrangements are in place to mitigate those risks. Since March 2020, the performance management process has been temporarily suspended, as work to tackle the pandemic is prioritised. The introduction of Adjustment Plans across the authority set out which services can be operated safely and effectively and when suspended services will be resumed. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act came into force in April 2021 and introduced a new performance regime for principal councils based on self-assessment.



Mitigation Action

Due Date

Dec 19

Sep 20

Dec 20

Mar 21

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R003T01: Ensure business or service adjustment plans are up-to-date	30 Jun 2021	★	★	★	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R003T04: Develop and implement the Teifi performance management system to prepare for the new self-assessments	31 Mar 2022	●	★	★	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R003T05: Introduce a refined and focussed business planning process for 2021/22	31 Mar 2022	-	-	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R003T06: Implement effective performance self-assessment arrangement across the authorities as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act, 2021	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	●

Comments (eg progress to date)

Business Plans for 2020/21 were suspended following the first lockdown in March 2020. In their place has been the development of local Covid-19 Adjustment Plans for each service, the purpose of which is to deal with threat of the pandemic and maintain the safety of staff, the community and front line services. The Adjustment Plans set out how the authority will adjust to the "new normal", and include detailed plans on which services can be operated safely and effectively, and which ones are suspended. They are reviewed. However despite the success of the adjustment plan, they are Covid focused and it was agreed that Business plans should be reintroduced for 2021/22 to include wider challenges and developments as we move gradually to the "new normal" and this process is underway. During 2021/22 the Council will be developing a new process to support the delivery of annual self-assessments as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The new performance regime for principal councils requires a change in approach including ongoing engagement on its performance, a panel assessment once every electoral cycle and the publication of an annual self-assessment of its performance.

Corporate Risk R004 Business Continuity

Owner: CLO Alun Williams

Description

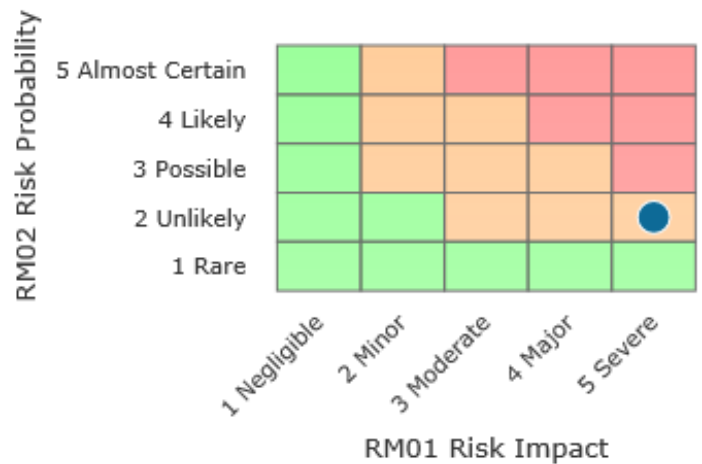
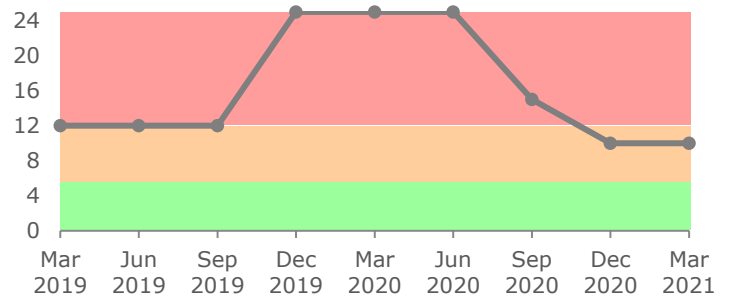
Failure to have business resilience or dealing with emergency events is likely to significantly impact on the delivery of essential services and the lives of people in our communities.

Potential Consequence

There are several organisational and citizen risks associated with poor business continuity and civil contingency planning as services could be affected during incidents, and major incidents may have both immediate and long term consequences including failure to deliver essential services, injury/fatalities, claims for compensation, property damage, negative media, and public inquiries.

Evidence of Risk

By far the most serious threat facing the authority is the emergence of the COVID 19 coronavirus. The greatest risk to the authority's business continuity has consistently been identified as a pandemic. Our business continuity plans have been thoroughly tested and have been successful in reacting to the fast moving developments experienced during this pandemic. In addition, there have been a number of incidents arising in the main from a necessity to respond to severe weather situations involving Service Areas across the authority where day to day business has been affected.



Mitigation Action	Due Date	Dec 19	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R004T01: Participate and contribute to Dyfed Powys LRF coordination groups, and update Emergency Plans	31 Mar 2022	●	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R004T02: Develop and Implement a Response and Adjustment Plan for the control of COVID-19	30 Jun 2022	■	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R004T03: Review and reenergise the internal authority wide business continuity planning meetings	31 Mar 2022	-	-	■	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R004T04: Develop a refined and focused corporate businesses continuity planning process	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	●

Comments (eg progress to date)

The Local Authority has implemented its Emergency Response Plan and business continuity plans through the implementation of a Local Authority Gold Command structure with Silver Command groups reporting to it. The Silver Command groups range from Economic Adjustment, Excess Deaths, Testing and Contact Tracing, Mass Vaccination and Homelessness. All services have reviewed and updated their business continuity plans in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, just prior to the lockdown in March 2020. Ceredigion's Major Incident Plan has been implemented. Significant business risks were also identified in respect of Brexit. As well as being engaged in a specific Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum Brexit preparedness group, the Local Authority is now fully involved in a COVID 19 strategic coordination group. Business Continuity Management group has been re-established, and is chaired by the cabinet member with portfolio for finance and public protection. The emergency rest centre plan and procedures are being revised and updated. Training is being developed and delivered to a number of staff volunteers who will manage rest centres in future.

Corporate Risk R005 Medium Term Financial Plan

Owner: CLO Steve Johnson

Description

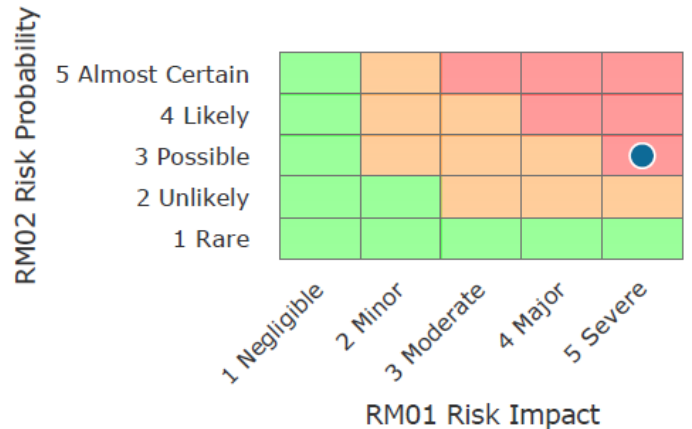
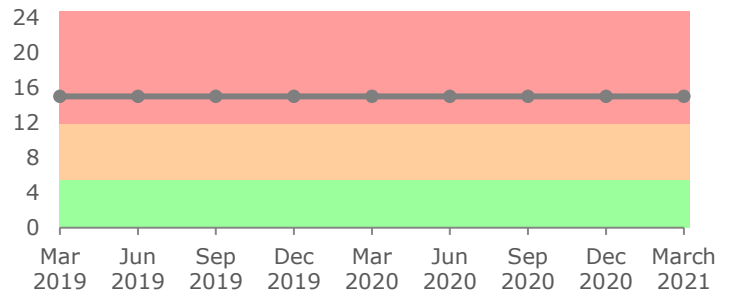
The reduction of core and external funding will lead to the reduction in service provision in some areas. Failure to adapt, implement identified savings and consider alternative models of service provision in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan will affect future service delivery and the financial responsibilities of the Council.

Potential Consequence

- Risk of failing to meet statutory budget setting deadlines.
- Risk of service delivery impacted due to decreasing resources, short lead in times to service changes or failure to effectively prioritise spend in line with corporate priorities.
- Risk that savings plans identified are not achieved as planned.
- Risk that annual budget setting frustrates longer term planning

Evidence of Risk

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) The Strategy has clearly identified the cost pressures required due to insufficient resources in future years and backlog road maintenance. In particular the condition of the "c" class network remains a major cause of concern with 17.5% of the network considered to be in poor condition. Service budgets are to remain flat whilst the corporate centre manages a transformation savings programme to deliver savings to cover the reduction in settlements. Project managers are in place to implement some of the transformation programme. Financial Management: The 2019/20 budget set is under significant strain due to new budget pressures since the budget was set. Late additional grant monies became available to the Council for Social Care and Teachers Pensions and this will therefore cover the Social Care budget set deficit, however there is the carry over base deficit that requires monitoring. Quarterly Performance monitoring and as appropriate Budget Challenge sessions are held to manage the process whereby CLO's are supported through the process of budget management. A solid track record exists of delivering budgets within the last few years. There are challenges associated with the scale and pace of implementation, some of the savings envisaged are now taking longer to realise, however investment is still being made in the transformation programme from savings achieved, for example invest to save schemes which in turn will produce savings. Currently the Council is on track to deliver in time for budget setting and is able to fund one off projects. Brexit: The implications of the vote to leave the EU need to be better understood and Brexit is believed to be a significant financial risk for Ceredigion, potentially damaging to the Economy and market place for employment. Risk Level: The risk was reduced during 2017/18 from 20 to 15 as the scale of budget savings required was decreasing, however the cost pressures now being forecast are higher than in the past.



Mitigation Action

Mitigation Action	Due Date	Dec 19	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R005T01: Continue arrangements for financial management	31 Mar 2022	★	★	●	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R005T03: Ensure that Transformation and service efficiency savings are developed and implemented.	31 Mar 2022	-	■	●	★

Comments (eg progress to date)

- Quarter 2 reporting has been prepared and shows a breakeven position and has identified and managed the Covid -19 one off costs. Quarter 3 reporting is in arrears due to the focus of work on priority business grants that support the local economy and jobs.

The provisional settlement for the 2021/22 budget is a low one at just 2% and almost half of the Welsh Average of 3.8%. This means a funding gap in the amount of £3.5m which will be dealt with in the budget setting process.

The risk level has been re-considered as appropriate and it is thought unlikely to reduce in the immediate next few years and the likelihood is that a future review may well lead to a higher risk being assigned. This would be in part due to the risks of lower settlements in future issues arising from the overall economic climate and the higher UK government borrowing linked to managing the pandemic. The baseline of the Council expenditure is also lower as past savings have been delivered.

The 21/22 revenue budget included a Corporate Savings target allocated to LG of £2.137m. The balance to identify is currently £0.674m which is outlined as follows:

<u>LG Savings Target 2021/22</u>	
	£k
Opening Balance	2,137
Less Base Budget Savings not utilised	-436
Less Reduction in Contingency / Invest to Save Budgets	-200
Less Reduction in requirement for Fire Levy	-327
Less Council Tax Support Scheme Growth not required as Funding likely from WG + Earmarked Reserve available	-500
Balance to be identified	674

Corporate Risk R006 Through Age & Well-being Programme

Owner: Interim Corporate Director Caroline Lewis

Description

The Through Age & Well-being Programme has been established and developed to transform the way the Council will deliver Social Care services. This aligns with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act SSWBA. SSWBA provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.

The programme will therefore oversee the development of services and transformation of Social care. Failure to achieve this will risk that the authority will fail to meet its statutory and legislative requirements and the challenges faced with the increasing pressure on social care budgets.

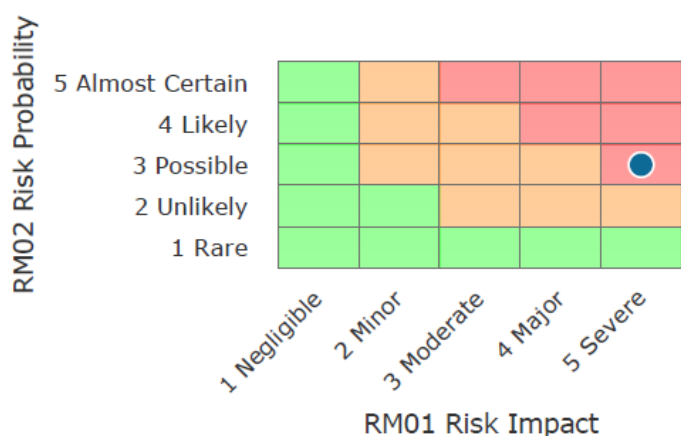
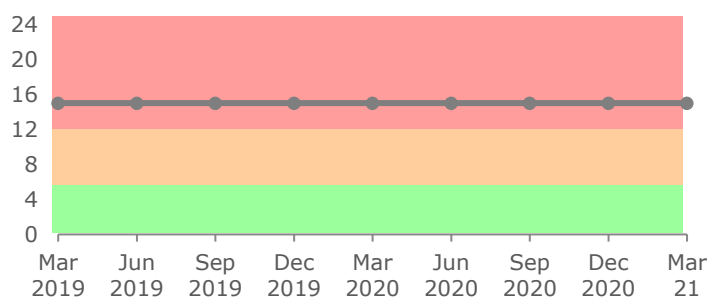
The Through Age & Wellbeing Programme is progressing to develop and implement service arrangements and staffing structure to support the emphasis on early intervention and prevention services. Risks and opportunities that may arise from the rebalancing of services will need to be managed.

Potential Consequence

- Inability to deliver safe and effective services across all ages
- Missed opportunities to develop resilient and caring communities
- Continued increase in expenditure in delivering high cost services
- Inability to meet rising demand for services
- Not meeting statutory duties and legislative requirements

Evidence of Risk

- Continued pressure on social care budgets
- Increase in numbers of individuals in receipt of statutory services for planned care and support
- Need to provide prevention and early intervention services in line with legislation
- Prolonged period of 'Managing change process' impacting on the workforce
- Difficulties in retaining and recruitment of staff



Mitigation Action	Due Date	Dec 19	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R006T01: Progress to be reported on the implementation of new service model to the project board	31 Mar 2022	★	●	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R006T02: Ensure that implementation has Corporate Leadership	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R006T03: Ensure HR/workforce programs in place in line with managing change	31 Mar 2022	●	★	●	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R006T04: Corporate managers to be appointed and team structures agreed	31 Mar 2022	●	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R006T05: Regular scrutiny of budgets and financial implications to implementation of the new model	31 Mar 2022	■	★	●	★

Comments (eg progress to date)

An overall Through Age and Wellbeing strategy is currently being developed that sets out the vision and associated approaches that will be taken to transform how the wellbeing and safety of the people of Ceredigion is supported. The strategy describes the journey the programme and Council will take to transform its way of working. It provides the strategic context to drive future commissioning, operational service delivery, care management and our role in the integration of services.

The work of the specific work streams continues. These have evolved according to need and now include systems and processes that incorporate the initial contact and proportionate assessment arrangements as well as improvements to the WCCIS reporting system, signs of safety and finance and procurement.

The restructuring of teams has progressed with consultation of the Team Manager structure across the programme commencing in March.

Workshops have continued for Corporate Managers and Corporate Lead Officers with IPC that support the change management and give examples of new models of care.

A number of workshops for development of the strategy will ensure the focus remains consistent across the model to deliver services that will meet the vision and ensure sustainable care for the future.

Maintaining critical frontline services has continued during this time and due to impact of Covid 19 there has been increased demand on services, budgets and need to develop alternative ways of providing support to vulnerable people along with managing new essential aspects of the work – staff testing, vaccination programme and infection control measures in relation to care homes and front line staff and services.

All key officers continue to meet weekly in order to progress the implementation, a number of additional projects are likely to be incorporated into the programme to ensure that processes are efficient and aligned. We continue to pursue funding streams in order to maximise finance available.

Corporate Risk R009 Information Management - Security

Owner: CLO Arwyn Morris

Description

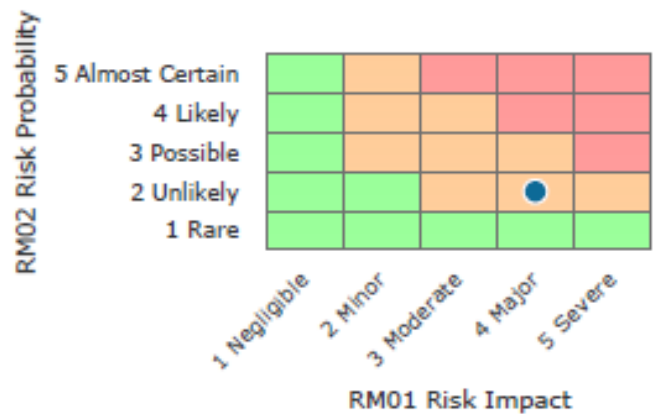
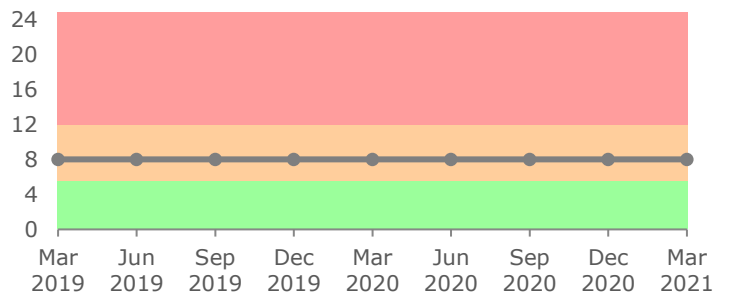
Failure to ensure that we have effective information and ICT, security and compliance in place, will impact on the Authorities ability to adapt to change, improve services and communicate effectively with citizens and other users of Council services.

Potential Consequence

Not having robust ICT will impact on all service delivery with limited or no access to information systems that are key for business delivery. Inadequate security processes and staffing awareness to manage personal data could result in data misuse/loss that could result in not complying with the General Data Protection Regulation and can cause distress to the person(s) data that has been missing managed. Failure to manage all data within the law will result in a potential 10m Euro fine from the ICO and reputational damage to the Authority. Maintaining backup services both for power and internet connection from the two data centres is critical for delivery of all digital services, especially with the move towards a digital delivery of Customer Services.

Evidence of Risk

No major incidents from external cyber threats in the past 12 months and no major data loss reported to the ICO. Continue to patch all ICT infrastructures to the required level and achieved PSN accreditation for another 12 months. Continue to provide information awareness courses and proactively working with service areas to ensure that their data is appropriate and save securely. Staffs have attended Cyber training to ensure that we maintain good level of security against increased levels of external attack risks. Compliance to GDPR is achieved and priority is given to provide staff training, publishing Privacy Notices and ensuring consent where required.



Mitigation Action

Mitigation Action	Due Date	Dec 19	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R009T01: Ensure information management processes are followed	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R009T03: Implement the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★

Comments (eg progress to date)

Continue to support staff and children working from home and no security/cyber threats detected. Preparing the network for annual Penetration testing for PSN compliance through patching and upgrading all necessary software. No major issues with Information compliance and working with other agencies to ensure GDPR compliance for Covid-19 related work.

Corporate Risk R015 Support Local Food Business

Owner: CLO Alun Williams

Description

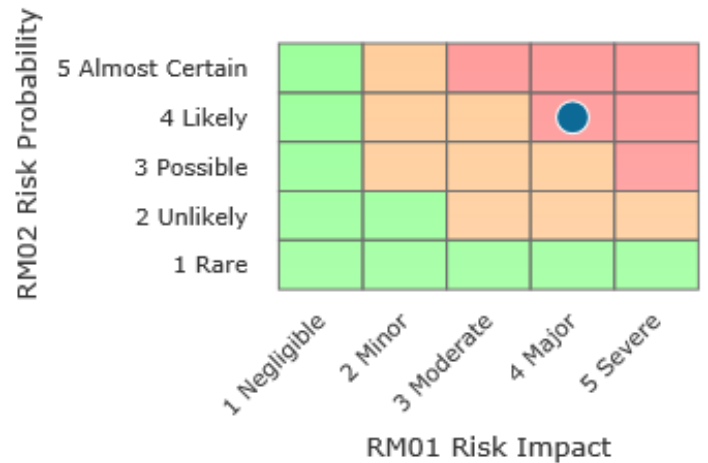
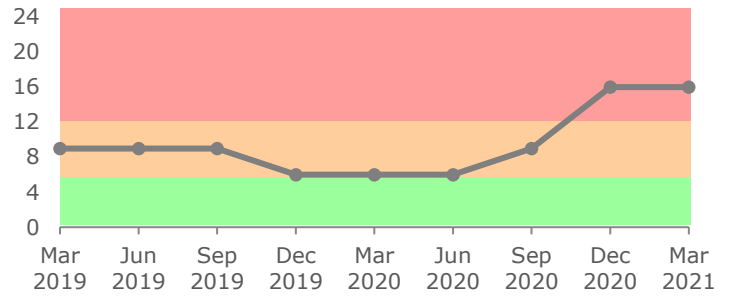
Failure to make adequate frequent high risk premises inspections and timely inspections of new premises may provide inadequate support for businesses leading to poorer standards, impact on the business itself and the local economy. There is also a reputational risk if the Council does not meet its statutory responsibilities under the Food Safety Act 1990.

Potential Consequence

The main consequences for the Council are reputational, political and poorer service delivery for businesses and impact on citizens of the County. Food poisoning is the main risk which could potentially have a serious impact on citizens. This could lead to poor regulatory reports, intervention as well as loss of confidence in an important business sector impacting on the vitality and viability of the local economy.

Evidence of Risk

The main evidence of risk is a consequence of COVID-19 related activity led by the Public Protection Team. Inspections of food outlets were suspended during the initial phase of the pandemic, but have recently commenced for high risk and new premises only due to health and safety concerns. Since the arrival of the covid-19 pandemic the ability of the Council to maintain its inspection programme has been severely compromised. Experienced Environmental Health officers have been redeployed to undertake Covid related work such as advising residential care homes on infection control, contact tracing, providing Covid advice to businesses and enforcing breaches of Covid regulations. Consequently, only high risk businesses are being visited and those businesses where there are complaints or concerning intelligence about poor food safety standards. This situation is replicated across Wales, and the Food Standards Authority is aware and supporting local authorities to reprioritise this work.



Mitigation	Due Date	Dec 19	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R015T02: To prioritise those food establishments that are deemed high risk or where complaints are made or intelligence received that standards are falling	31 Mar 2022	-	-	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R015T03: Maintain an open dialogue with the regulator, the Food Standards Agency, in relation to the resources being allocated to food standards.	31 Mar 2022	-	-	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R015T04: Maintain a digital and telephone advice service to local food businesses.	31 Mar 2022	-	-	●	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support businesses to respond to covid-19 through reestablishing food standards intervention programme in accordance with the Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	●

Comments (eg progress to date)

Additional staff have been trained to undertake food hygiene inspections. However, due to the pandemic most of these staff have been redeployed to concentrate on the control of Covid-19, and this is the priority for the Public Protection Team at this time. Food standards and inspections which were suspended entirely for the first half of 2020/21 and again during the second lockdown with the exception of high risk premises, have recommenced for high risk premises. The Food Standards Agency is aware of this approach and has given its support to this approach across all local authorities in Wales.

Corporate Risk R016 Brexit

Owner: CLO Alun Williams

Description

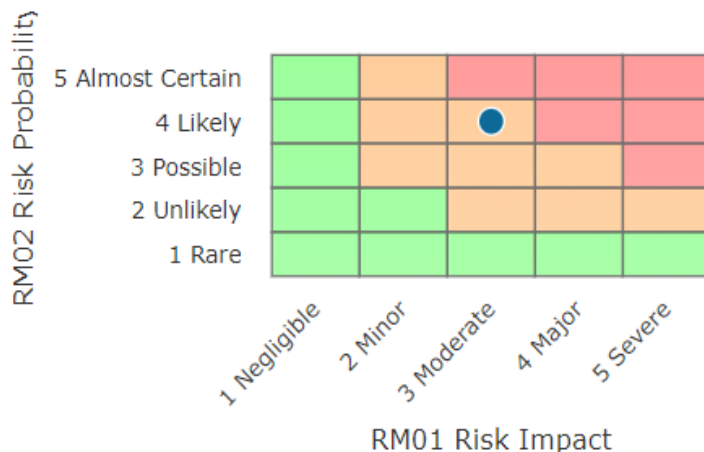
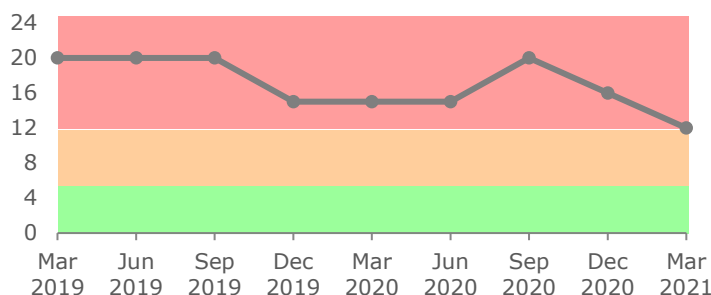
A UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) was reached on 24 December, which was subsequently ratified by the UK Parliament ahead of new arrangements with the EU coming into effect from 1 January. The consequences of leaving the European Union (EU) have a potential negative impact on the council's financial position and the economy of Ceredigion. In addition Brexit may also impact on community cohesion and the flow of imports and exports. Leaving with a deal has mitigated the risks significantly.

Potential Consequence

Risks to • The Ceredigion Economy • European Funded projects • Legislation • Financial disruption • Community Cohesion • EU settlement scheme • Export issues

Evidence of Risk

The UK left the EU and negotiated a trade deal in December 2020. Leaving the EU with a deal was less of a risk to Ceredigion although the deal will still result in some disruption. In particular, the consequences of the Internal Market Bill is not yet fully understood and necessary changes in the legislation are yet to be made. The Internal Market Bill deals with ESF payments. There is some evidence of disruption of exports from Ceredigion at the time of writing.



Mitigation Action	Due Date	Dec 19	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R016T07 Develop a Ceredigion County Council Brexit Impact Assessment and continually Review	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R016T08 Contribute and participate in the Local Resilience Forum Brexit arrangements	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R016T09 Designate an Elected Member and a Senior Officer to lead on Brexit and setup internal sub group of officers to continually monitor the impact of Brexit for the next six months	30 Sep 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R016T11 Lobby for additional funding to assist with Brexit planning, implementation and monitoring.	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★

Comments (eg progress to date)

Following the 2016 referendum, the UK approved the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020. This sets out the arrangements for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, and makes legal provision for ratifying the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, incorporating it into UK domestic law. The 2020 Act also amends the UK's powers to continue to use 'retained EU law' until two years after the end of the transition period (31/12/20) ie up to 31/12/22. These provisions will allow the UK to incorporate any new EU law that comes into effect during this time. The UK left the EU on the 31st of December 2020, ending the transition period. The UK and the EU also agreed a trade deal by 31/12/20.

Work has continued to address economic and other issues in the County and across the region, that are likely to be adversely affected by Brexit. This has included assisting local businesses and organisations with their projects in the County and work through the Growing Mid Wales Partnership to develop a vision and set of interventions that would help realise economic opportunities over the next 15 years or so. A Brexit Impact Assessment was compiled and is regularly updated.

The Leader of the Council is the designated elected member and the Corporate Lead Officer Policy and Performance is the designated lead officer for Brexit within the County Council. The Corporate Lead Officer Policy and Performance attends the LRF Brexit Planning Group along with other officers as appropriate. The Local Authority has received Welsh Government funding to assist with preparations for Brexit and to facilitate take-up of the EU settled status scheme. The Council is monitoring the impact of Brexit in a sub group of officers, which reports to Leadership Group.

Corporate Risk R017 Safeguarding

Owner: CLO Sian Howys

Description

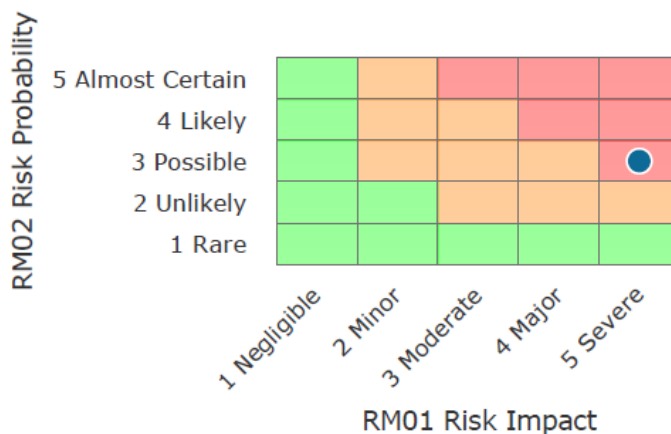
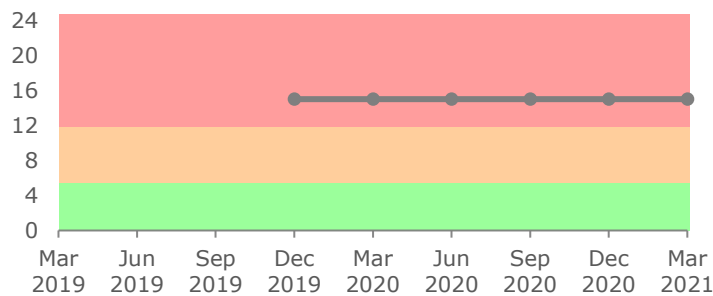
Risk of failure to maintain the organisation's statutory duties in relation to safeguarding children, young people and adults during the period of transition to the Integrated Service Delivery Model.

Potential Consequence

There is a risk that children, young people and adults may suffer significant harm which may result in a reputational, legal, and financial impact on the corporate body.

Evidence of Risk

- Increase in referrals due to legislative changes (SSWBA, VAWDASV) and impact of Covid-19 on individuals' and groups vulnerable to abuse and neglect
- Increase in demand and complexity specifically in relation to children and families and young people
- It is acknowledged this is a high risk area of work



Mitigation Action	Due Date	Dec 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R017T01: Establish an Integrated Service Model Project Board and make regular reports to that board	31 Mar 2022	★	●	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R017T02: Ensure that relevant safeguarding training and skills development is rolled out to all staff	31 Mar 2022	★	■	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R017T03: Implementation of The Wales Safeguarding Procedures across all teams and services	31 Mar 2022	-	-	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R017T04: Regular monitoring and reporting of safeguarding concerns and activities to safeguarding forums and senior managers	31 Mar 2022	-	-	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R017T05 Active participation in the Regional Safeguarding Board activities from across the model	31 Mar 2022	-	-	★	★

Comments (eg progress to date)

Regular quarterly reporting on safeguarding activity has continued on a weekly and quarterly basis to operational managers and safeguarding forums; Local Operations Group and Regional Safeguarding Board and Scrutiny and Cabinet. The number of safeguarding reports regarding children at risk has remained consistent with some reduction in the number of adult at risk reports. Awareness raising of the importance of Care homes and providers making safeguarding reports when necessary has been carried out and close monitoring of reporting levels will continue.

Safeguarding training programme has continued with good attendance levels.

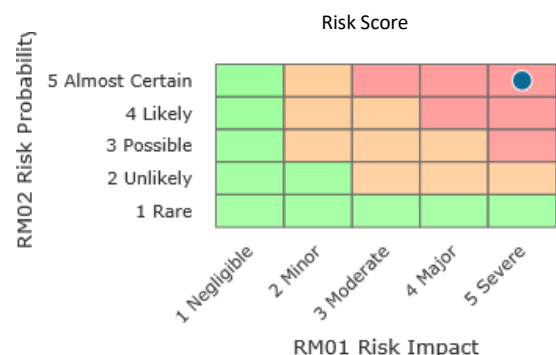
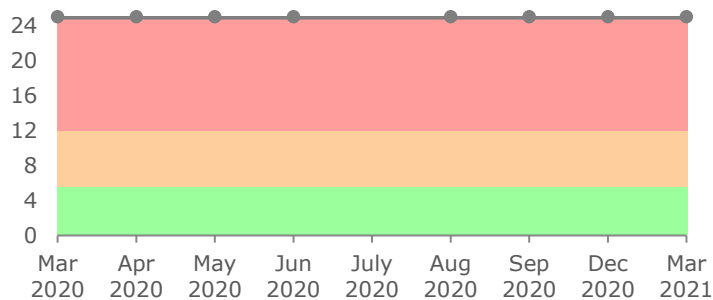
Compliance rates across services with the standards and expectations set in the Wales Safeguarding Procedures is monitored closely in the safeguarding performance reports.

Representatives from across the TAW model actively participate in the Safeguarding Board's activities and will make safeguarding reports when necessary.

Corporate Risk R018 Covid-19

Owner: CLO Alun Williams

Description
The effect of the spread of the global pandemic Covid-19 on the health of citizens and the increased demands on all the Council's services; and the effects of various Lockdowns on the delivery of council services, the wider economy and the well-being of the County's citizens.
Potential Consequences
High levels of infection, serious illness and excess deaths of the population, as well as a significant economic downturn, widespread disruption of service provision, detriment to personal well-being, including staff well-being and mental health. In addition, there may be an inability to fully assess or meet the needs of all our service users plus significant financial loss and increased costs, in the short and medium term, to the Council. This may impact on the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and sustainability of services by the Council. This may include the ability to respond to the economic crisis and other challenges created as a result of the pandemic and indirect impacts of being able to respond to non-Covid emergencies. The education of children, young people and adults will suffer. There is also the potential for legal challenges if Statutory Duties are not met, along with non-compliance with standards and fraud going undetected and a failure to maintain and/or improve assets and services to the aspired/desired level. There is also the risk of safeguarding concerns not being reported or disclosed.
Evidence of Risk
<p>The UK went into lockdown on the 23rd March 2020 and in December 2020. The Council shut down its offices, schools, and facilities. Many services have restarted but not all following both lockdowns.</p> <p>All services have had to adapt to carrying out statutory duties using remote methods and risk assessing essential visits. The residential care sector has seen measures imposed to protect residents but incidents of catastrophic infection have occurred.</p> <p>Our 9,500 school pupils have been without access to face-to-face learning for a significant period of time, and some important skills will not have developed as fully as they would have if they were attending school fulltime. Although some pupils returned to school there are huge logistical challenges in keeping them safe and healthy.</p> <p>The risks of coming out of lockdown too soon or too slowly are ongoing, and have created conflicting demands on services. Decisions taken at a national level are sometimes detrimental to the efforts to contain the pandemic within Ceredigion. In addition, ongoing compliance with Covid regulations can present challenges to the Local Authority in its monitoring and enforcement work</p> <p>So far, a level of fatalities has been avoided and seems increasingly unlikely, however the arrival of new variants has complicated matters and is a cause of concern and the greatest risk facing us.</p> <p>Increased costs and reduced income arising from Covid-19 including increased claimants (and associated cost) on Council Tax Support Scheme, Protective Equipment, IT equipment, additional pay and commissioned services, lost car park and leisure income and reduced Council Tax collection rates. WG have reimbursed the great majority of costs during this period.</p> <p>Whilst staff absences are surprisingly low, a significant number of staff are finding working from home difficult and stressful, combined with the inevitable increase in workloads in responding to the pandemic. As a result, an ongoing programme of staff well-being support and training has been taking place throughout the pandemic, including the regular 'well-being Wednesday' communications, dedicated well-being training for all staff and ongoing monitoring of the impacts on staff absence.</p>



Mitigation Action	Due Date	May 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T01: Comply and fully support National and Local Lockdown arrangements	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T02: To lock down and recommence Ceredigion County Council services on a risk assessed basis	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T03: To fully engage in regional emergency response and recovery arrangements	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T04: Effective communication with the Ceredigion public and stakeholders	31 Mar 2022	★	★		★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T05: Implement an effective and responsive decision making process in relation to covid-19 on a temporary basis.	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T06: Implement and monitor local control measures	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T07: Support the local economy and businesses through all phases of the pandemic	31 Mar 2022	★	★	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T08: Work with others to implement testing, contact tracing and mass vaccinations	31 Mar 2022	-	-	★	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R018T09: Implement an effective programme of staff well-being support and training	31 Mar 2022	-	-	★	★

Mitigating Action	Progress update	Status
1. Comply and fully support National and Local lockdown arrangements	<p>The national lockdown implemented in March and December 2020 have proved successful. These relaxations ended with the second wave and the subsequent lockdown. Silver Command is supporting mass vaccination.</p> <p>Over the summer the transmission number of cases and deaths has fallen the four Nations of the UK have followed slightly different paths to the relaxation of regulations.</p> <p>However, a sudden second wave has resulted in local lockdowns in various authorities and the situation is continuous review.</p>	GREEN
2. To lock down and recommence Ceredigion County Council services on a risk assessed basis	<p>Closure of all Residential Care Homes to visitors and provided video conferencing facilities for residents to keep in touch with their families.</p> <p>Worked with the tourism sector and Universities to open and close their facilities in a controlled and safe manner.</p> <p>The medically vulnerable and those shielding in Ceredigion were contacted by telephone to ensure food and medication was delivered and to ensure their safety. The Council has provided weekly food boxes sourced locally to over 950 of our most vulnerable citizens and Council staff contact over 2,500 individuals that are shielding on a regular basis.</p> <p>Childcare for children of frontline service workers has been provided across the county whilst continuing to provide resources and support to pupils learning from home.</p> <p>From the outset a voluntary arrangement to redeploy staff to critical frontline services was established. The numbers of staff fluctuated as need arose. Over the period March to June over 400 staff had been redeployed to cover these services.</p>	GREEN

	More recently leisure services have closed and staff remain working from home.	
3. To fully engage in regional emergency response and recovery arrangements	<p>The following emergency planning groups have been established in Ceredigion:</p> <p>Gold Command Silver Command Excess Deaths Silver Command Homelessness Silver Command Testing Silver Command Contact Tracing Silver Command Economic Adjustment Tackling Hardship Group</p> <p>Representation at the following DPP LRF meetings: Strategic Coordination Group Tactical Coordination group Excess Deaths Enforcement Group Recovery Coordination Group Opening up the Public Realm Group</p>	GREEN
4. To effectively communicate with the Ceredigion public and stakeholders	<p>Regular press releases and social media posts issued with relevant, timely information.</p> <p>The Council's social media sites have increased the number of followers. Social media posts reaching a large audience and receiving several comments.</p> <p>A dedicated page has been created on the Council website where information, advice and guidance regarding coronavirus can be accessed. These pages are continuously reviewed and updated.</p>	GREEN
5. Implement an effective and responsive decision making process in relation to covid-19 on a temporary basis	<p>Meetings of the Cabinet recommenced in June 2020 and are being held remotely. In July, meetings of the Development Control Committee and the Audit Committee were also resumed remotely.</p> <p>From September 2020 a programme of council meetings has been rescheduled. Some meetings such as Council and Cabinet are broadcast to the public through Facebook.</p>	GREEN
6. Implement and monitor local control measures	<p>In-house Contact Tracing Team developed in early April.</p> <p>Arrangements in place to ensure testing of Council staff and/or members of their household which is linked to the Contact Tracing Team and self-isolation requirements.</p> <p>All Residential Care Home residents and staff are regularly tested.</p> <p>All residential homes in the county are risk rated and where there are infections control measures are put in place.</p> <p>A multi-agency county-wide incident management team (IMT) meets on a weekly basis to manage all incidents and</p>	GREEN

	<p>outbreaks of Covid within the county. An additional regional IMT is being set up to consider control measures across the Hywel Dda region.</p> <p>Risk Assessments undertaken prior to re-commencing any service, including the requirements for PPE.</p> <p>Effective partnership working with Hywel Dda University Health Board, Dyfed-Powys Police, Aberystwyth University, businesses and voluntary and charitable groups.</p> <p>Enforcement action taken by Local Authority Officers where education and encouragement has failed.</p>	
<p>7. Support the local economy and businesses through all phases of the pandemic</p>	<p>Silver Command set up, 7 workstreams established covering data, financial and business support, safer towns, tourism and outdoor assets, development initiatives, regional action and communication.</p> <p>Safe Zones were set up in four coastal town centres over the summer which proved successful in maintaining social distancing in otherwise narrow pavements. This included the introduction of consent orders under the Highways Act for cafes and bars to use pavement space. The general reaction has been positive.</p> <p>Economic Impact analysis has been completed that captures existing impact and provides a baseline for action.</p> <p>There has been a significant increase in the level of funding available and advice provided to businesses. The Finance Service has distributed millions of pounds worth of support on behalf of Welsh Government to local businesses and third sector organisations.</p> <p>A framework for action across mid Wales has been agreed and work is progressing for a Growth Deal and through a regional town centre action group.</p> <p>Pubic Protection have monitored, advised and assisted businesses.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>8. Work with others to implemented testing and contract tracing and mass vaccinations</p>	<p>The Contact Tracing Team has grown and now employs 50 members of staff and has a robust structure to deal with the numbers of positive tests reported on a daily basis. It works on a 7-day 12-hour basis, including bank holidays.</p> <p>The Contact Tracing Team identifies index cases and provides advice.</p> <p>The Local Authority has provided buildings and resources to assist health colleagues in the setting up of testing centres, field hospitals and mass vaccination centres in the county. Staff attend multi-agency meetings organised by health</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

	colleagues to plan and administer mass vaccination in-line with government guidance.	
9. Implement an effective programme of staff well-being support and training	An ongoing programme of staff well-being support and training has been taking place during the coronavirus pandemic, including the regular 'well-being Wednesday' communications, dedicated well-being training for all staff and ongoing monitoring of the impacts of the pandemic on staff absence.	GREEN

Measures Update

Measure	CLO	30 th of June	30 th of September	31 st of December	31 st of March
Number of Covid-19 cases reported	Alun Williams (PHW)	58	113	1,329	1,762
No. of Covid-19 registered deaths in Ceredigion (cumulative result)	Arwyn Morris	9	8	24	36
Number of staff unable to work from home	Geraint Edwards	81	35	22	22
Staff redeployed to alternative roles	Geraint Edwards	48	18	43	29
Total Number of Section 47 Enquiries for quarter	Sian Howys	48	47	50	
Number of social care assessments commenced for adults	Donna Pritchard	1st June – 30 th June 376	1 st September – 30 th September 379 (333 Distinct Adults)	256 (239 Distinct Adults)	331 (307 Distinct Adults)
Number of homeless households in temporary accommodation (under s68 and s75 duty plus project placements)	Donna Pritchard	As on 30 th June 63	N/A	61	64
No of Covid-19 related press releases	Lowri Edwards	46	45	52	17
COVID-19 general enquiries to CLIC	Arwyn Morris	916 (April) 531 (May) 481 (June)	714 (July) 586 (August) 448 (September)	1522 (October) 935 (November) 478 (December)	1167 (January) 615 (February) 535 (March)

Measure	CLO	30 th of June	30 th of September	31 st of December	31 st of March
No of individuals referred for Contact Tracing	Alun Williams	94	61 index cases and 293 contacts = 354 individuals	1,218 index cases and 3,774 contacts = 4,992 individuals	580 index cases and 1345 contacts = 1925 individuals
Attendance % for all pupils in school	Meinir Ebbsworth	-	88.9% (up until 30/9/2020) ¹	91.25% (up until 11/12/2020) ²	Primary 96%
					Secondary 93%
					(For week ending 16/4/21) ³
Number of PPE items distributed ⁴ (cumulative result)	Donna Pritchard	2,799,493	5,751,986	8,602,591	11,366,499
% of Universal Credit Claims (claimant count as a proportion of residents aged 16-64)	Russell Hughes Pickering	4.6%	4.6%	4.4%	4.4%
Covid-19 business grant funding – total value of payments made ⁵	Steve Johnson	£26.8m	£28.2m	£36.3m	£49m
Covid-19 business grant funding – total number of payments made	Steve Johnson	-	2,346	5,183	8,835
Business premises checked to assess their compliance with regulations	Alun Williams	1,567	493 (1st July – 30th September)	806 (1st October – 31st December)	803 visits to 436 premises (1 st Jan – 31 st March)
Total vaccinations administered in Ceredigion ⁶	Caroline Lewis (Public Health Wales)	-	-	2,764 (3.8% of population)	First dose: 33,217 (45.7% of population) Second dose: 7812 (10.7% fully vaccinated)
Days sick per FTE employee (cumulative result)	Geraint Edwards	1.51	3.09	5.68	

Notes:

¹ Excludes June 2020 as there was an element of choice for parents to send pupils back for the final three weeks of the summer term, which would skew the figures downwards.

² Up until 11/12/2020 as schools were closed for the last week of term.

³ For the week ending 16/04/2021 as this was the first full week back.

⁴ PPE items include gloves, aprons, masks, visors, hand sanitizer containers, wipes, hand cream and forehead thermometers.

⁵ The business grants include the 1st Lockdown Grant, Start-up Grant, Firebreak Grants and Restriction Grants.

⁶ Please note vaccinations data are based on vaccination appointments.

Corporate Risk R019 Climate Change and Coastal Erosion / Flooding (New Risk)

Owner: CLO Russell Hughes-Pickering / Rhodri Llwyd

Description

Climate change is one of the biggest environmental challenges we currently face. Although failure to meet carbon emission and energy reduction targets will have both financial and environmental impacts for the Authority, there are wider implications for the County as a whole e.g. increased instances of flooding, drought and storms, which carry a huge potential impact on our communities and the Council's Estate, which includes our buildings, schools, Nature Reserves, Parks, allotments and also other holdings which are not actively managed.

As a Local Authority it is recognized that we must lead by example and do all we can to reduce future climate change and address and mitigate the risks associated with it - policy initiatives and strategies to include for ecosystem resilience, biodiversity enhancements and flood reduction schemes must be developed and implemented if we are to succeed in reducing our carbon footprint and reducing the risk to our major infrastructure, assets, residents and communities and landscape.

Potential Consequence

Climate change means we may face more frequent or severe weather events like flooding, droughts and storms. These events bring 'physical risks' that directly impact communities and have the potential to affect the economy. Parts of Ceredigion's coastline are susceptible to coastal erosion and flooding, and some inland communities are at risk of flooding and loss of land from watercourses. The impacts could be far reaching, with stakeholders facing life-threatening or life changing consequences, and the effects impacting on large sectors of the County/Council.

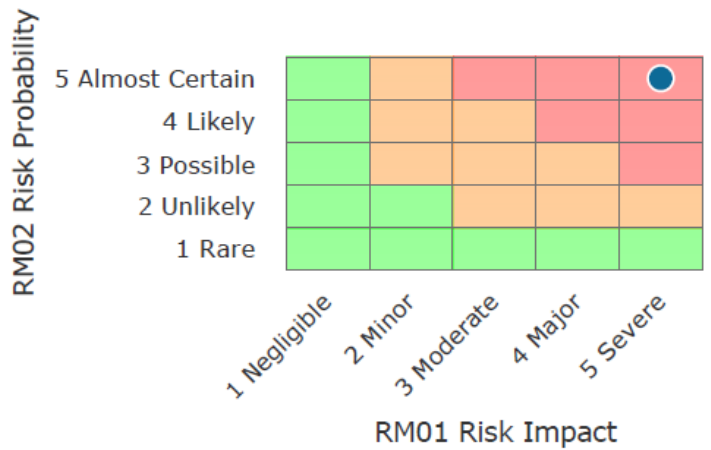
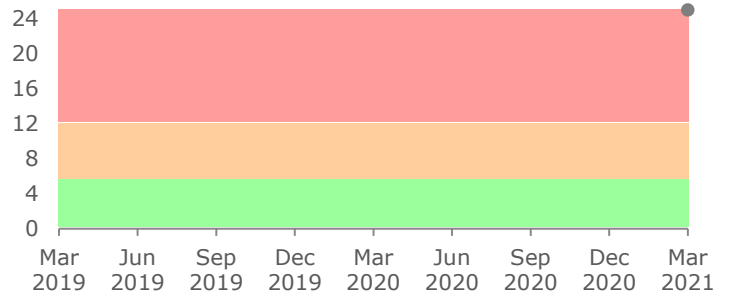
In addition, failure to reduce the effects of climate change could have reputational, financial and environmental consequences for the Council including in the form of financial penalties for failing to meet Welsh Government targets for carbon management and for biodiversity.

Indirect impacts will include changes to the insects, pests and diseases which will colonise and affect our environment. As well as immediate impacts of these, the impacts on staff time and other costs dealing with these will be significant.

Loss of canopy cover from Ash Dieback already has consequences for local microclimates and will exacerbate climate change impacts as well as contribute to them.

Evidence of Risk

Climate change is real and is happening across the world; it is impacting on local communities in Ceredigion. The West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan and Ceredigion's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy has identified locations within the County which are at current and future risk from coastal erosion and flooding, and from main river/watercourse/surface water flooding. There is scientific evidence showing that in order to halt climate change, carbon emissions have to stop - reducing them is not sufficient, we need to go further and work towards becoming a net-zero local authority.



Mitigation Action

Mitigation Action	Due Date	Jun 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R019T01: Develop a Corporate Climate Change Strategy including the capacity to utilise the wide range of funding available for climate change, green infrastructure, biodiversity and the National Forest	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R019T02: Develop and implement an Action Plan, detailing how we are going to achieve net carbon zero by 2030, to include reviewing our current position on an annual basis	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	★

Mitigation Action	Due Date	Jun 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R019T03: Increase the amount of energy generated from renewable sources	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R019T04: Identify and manage the corporate estate for carbon sequestration, carbon offsetting, flood alleviation, reducing food miles, with appropriate habitat management	31 Mar 2023	-	-	-	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R019T05: Develop Flood Alleviation Schemes for communities at risk of watercourse and surface water flooding, and install Flood Monitoring Sensors at critical locations to monitor rising water levels during flood events	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R019T06: Continue to monitor the coastline in partnership with the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre and develop Coastal Defence Schemes for Aberaeron, Aberystwyth, Borth/Ynyslas and Llangrannog	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R019T07: Provide advice on flood risk, potential prevention measures and watercourse management to landowners, and assistance/advice to residents and businesses during and after flood events	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	★

Comments (eg progress to date)

At a meeting of Full Council in June 2019, it was agreed to:

- Commit to making Ceredigion a net zero carbon Local Authority by 2030
- Develop a clear plan for a route towards being net zero carbon within 12 months
- Call on Welsh and UK Governments to provide the necessary support and resources to enable effective carbon reductions

Further to this, on the 5th March 2020, Ceredigion County Council declared a global climate emergency, committing to meeting the most significant challenge facing our county and our planet

The Net Zero Carbon Action Plan is currently in draft format and will be presented to Scrutiny Committee on 26th May 2021, following which it will be submitted to Cabinet and then full Council. At present the Plan focusses on our operational scope 1 and 2 emissions (as calculated as part of the Carbon Management Plan), however over the next 12 months we will be calculating our wider emissions, to include scope 3 emissions to include procurement, transport etc. This will be done on release of the Welsh Government's reporting methodology, which has been delayed due to COVID.

In addition, we are looking to increase our renewable energy generation. The Council already has the following renewable installations:

- Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels: 412 kW across 16 sites
- Solar PV-powered signs, lamps and street furniture – various locations.
- Biomass District heating – in Penmorfa, Aberaeron and Plascrug, Aberystwyth

Additional PV installations are being considered as part of the 21st Century Schools program, which will further increase renewable energy generation.

Welsh Government has also provided funding to the Council to investigate and install EV charging facilities on its assets and facilities, and these proposals will be developed further during 2021/22.

The resources for developing a Corporate Climate Change Strategy have not yet been identified, and will require dedicated staff time with input from across the Services and may require some external consultant input.

CCC commissioned a Green Infrastructure Assessment as part of the preparatory work for LDP2. There are a number of relevant and large capital funding opportunities which are currently open but closing soon, including the NHLF Nature Networks grant (EoI for Afon Teifi SAC phosphate related project up to £500k submitted) NHLF National Forest grants, Local Places for Nature grants and others. Work to identify, prioritise and develop project proposals for CCC owned sites which are suitable for carbon sequestration, carbon offsetting, flood alleviation, reducing food miles, with appropriate habitat management would provide the information needed for the type of capital grant opportunities identified.

The Outline Business Case for the Aberystwyth Coastal Defence Scheme has been considered by WG and further modelling works are planned during 2021. A consultant is finalising the detailed design and preparation of a Full Business Case for Aberaeron prior to applying for planning permission and a marine licence for the construction work in May 2021. Consultants are also developing the Outline Business Cases in relation to the proposed schemes at Borth and Llangrannog.

Beach monitoring surveys have been completed by the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre on the agreed locations along the Ceredigion coastline in 2020, and further surveys will be undertaken in 2021..

Funding has been secured to develop potential schemes to mitigate main river flooding risk at Llandysul a Llanybydder, and surface water food risks at Borth, Capel Bangor, Talybont, Llandre, Llangrannog, Aberaeron and Cwrtnewydd during 21/22. Flood monitoring sensors have also been installed at Cardigan and Llanrhystud and are already being used to raise the alarm during flood events, with further installations planned at Llechryd and Llanybydder.

Advice and guidance is being provided to developers in relation to the requirement for sustainable drainage systems to serve new developments, and advice and support has been provided to property owners who have been affected by flooding during the period.

Corporate Risk R020 Ash Dieback (New Risk)

Owner: CLO Rhodri Llwyd

Description

Ash Dieback is the most significant tree disease to affect the UK since Dutch elm disease and will lead to the decline and death of an estimated 90% to 95% of Ash trees in the UK, with the Ash being widespread across Ceredigion. This includes outside of woodlands in the form of hedgerow and specimen trees along roads, other public rights of way (PRoWs) and in public spaces. Infection with ADB causes trees to become brittle, shed limbs, and subsequently they may fail. The structural changes to the timber in dying ash significantly increase the risk of failure.

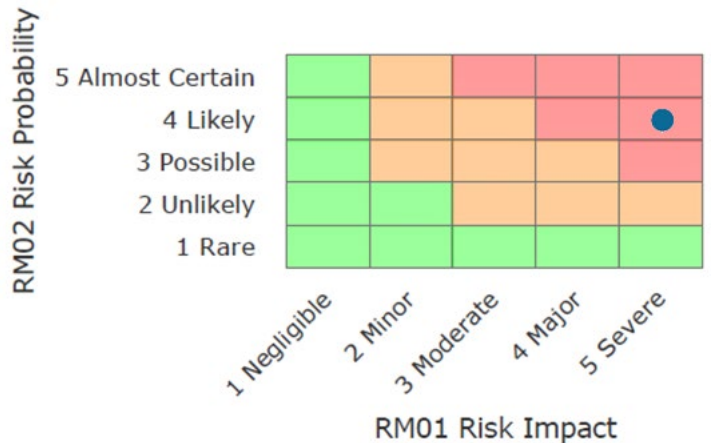
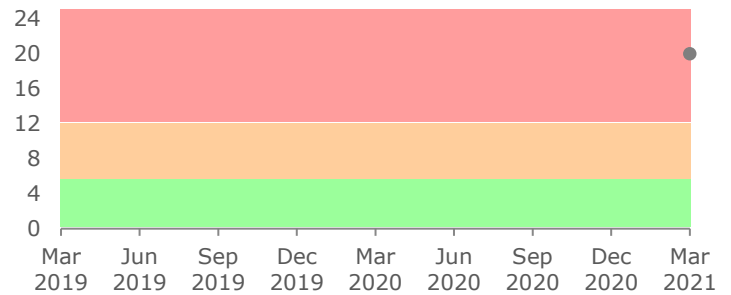
Ash Dieback is already having an impact on canopy cover across the county. It is estimated that there are 42,000 mature Ash trees along the county roads alone and a further 10,000 on the Council's Corporate Estate. Assuming a similar Ash tree density across all other public and private land including woodland and hedgerows, the impact of the loss of trees from Ash Dieback over the last 5 years and into the next 5 years on Ceredigion's carbon footprint, micro-climate and local impacts on climate change is significant.

Potential Consequence

There is the ongoing potential for death or injury as a result of Ash Dieback related accidents, to include risks to statutory functions or service delivery, with increased health and safety issues due to declining ash trees on roads, county parks, housing estates, schools, cycle ways, bridle paths and footpaths. Increased expenditure from direct and indirect costs as a result of Ash Dieback. Carbon emission from trees that fail/need to be removed will impact the Council's net zero carbon 2030 target, and a significant planting programme will be required over the next decade to compensate for the loss of ash trees. The loss of ecosystems provided by ash e.g. air quality, flood reduction, urban shading, increased noise levels and the loss of visual screens adjacent highways, carbon storage, carbon sequestration and habitat for biodiversity, and risks to protected species / sites through alteration and loss of habitat structure, stability and composition.





Evidence of Risk

Ash Dieback is already widespread and visible across the County. A national guide for the assessment of diseased trees using a system based on the percentage of live canopy cover has been established and is used to determine when action is necessary to address the risks posed by a tree's decline. It is recommended to take action when approximately 50% of the crown remains. Due to the scale of completing a survey across all council owned trees, a prioritised approach has been developed to ensure that the high risk areas are principally surveyed first. To achieve this a qualitative risk analysis has been carried out which considers the likelihood of injury and severity for each service in the authority identified to likely be affected by ash dieback. Consideration has been given to variables such as the estimated quantity of ash trees, estimated number of users who use the service and for highways road speed and visibility. The ADAP estimates that the total cost to the Council of managing its Ash Dieback risk could be of the order of £9.4m over a 10 year period, with a further £20m required to deal with Ash trees on private land.



Mitigation Action

Mitigation Action	Due Date	Jun 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R020T01: Production and adoption of an Ash Dieback Action Plan	01 Apr 2021	-	-	-	★
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R020T02: Establish a steering group and appoint an Ash Dieback Officer to coordinate and promote the Ash Dieback Action Plan, monitor it and to revise the plan as necessary	30 Sep 2021	-	-	-	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R020T03: Survey high priority areas such as schools, playgrounds and principle A & B routes to identify locations of Ash trees and their condition	30 Sep 2021	-	-	-	●

Mitigation Action	Due Date	Jun 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Mar 21
 R000T04: Undertake a prioritised scheme of work based on the trees which require pruning or removal based on monitoring and survey work	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	
 R020T05: Seek Welsh Government and other funding opportunities to address the risk posed by Ash Dieback and identify cost-effective measures of surveying and removing infected trees to minimise the financial impact on both the Council's and Welsh Government finances	31 Mar 2022	-	-	-	

Comments (eg progress to date)

The Ash Dieback Action Plan (ADAP) has been completed and been approved through the democratic process - it is intended to keep the ADAP under constant review as information is collated and priorities/workstreams identified.

Work is progressing to appoint a specialist contractor to undertake the initial survey work within the priority areas identified within the ADAP and to recruit an Ash Dieback Officer. Once appointed they will be tasked with establishing the steering group of officers across the various Council service areas and working up a prioritised scheme of pruning and removal of affected trees, together with identifying the most efficient and cost effective means of undertaking those works and addressing the risk posed.