

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 August 2025

Report by Clerk

RISK MANAGEMENT
CLARIFICATION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To summarise the clarification received and circulated on queries raised at the meeting of the Committee on 27 March on risk management, arising from consideration of a report on the Strategic Risk Register.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Committee notes the position.

REPORT

3. In June 2022, it was agreed to implement recommendations made by the Committee arising from its self-evaluation. An observation made then was that, when queries on reports are raised at meetings, it is not always possible for answers to be provided at the meeting itself. Although the provision of clarification or assurances subsequently was considered acceptable, it was agreed, in the interests of transparency, that the Clerk should submit a summary of clarification received and circulated to the next meeting. To ensure that effective use is made of officers' time, it was also agreed subsequently, following the Committee's most recent self-evaluation earlier in 2025, that all queries raised at formal meetings and subsequently (on initial clarification received and circulated by email) are to be addressed before the feedback is summarised and reported to the Committee for noting.

4. A related observation endorsed by the Committee in June 2022, and again earlier in June 2025 arising from the most recent self-evaluation, is the value of Members alerting the Clerk or Chair in advance to issues on which they intend to seek feedback at meetings. This is to allow relevant officers to be alerted to these queries and prepare adequately for meetings in the interests of transparency, efficiency and effectiveness.

5. Clarification received on queries raised at the meeting of the Committee on 27 March on risk management issues, arising from consideration of a report on the Strategic Risk Register, which has already been circulated through correspondence, is provided in Appendix 1. No additional queries were raised by members of the Committee on the clarification provided.

RECOMMENDATION

6. It is recommended that the Committee notes the position.

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Background Papers:-

1. Audit and Scrutiny Committee Agenda – 27 March 2025:-
[Strategic Risk Register](#)

APPENDIX 1

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT AND CIRCULATED

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM AND ISSUE(S) RAISED	CLARIFICATION
27 Mar 2025	<p data-bbox="409 557 712 587">Strategic Risk Register</p> <p data-bbox="409 624 1048 754">Further to discussions on the Strategic Risk Register (SRR), it was agreed that the Resilience Co-ordinator seek and provide further clarification on the following issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="409 791 1048 1026">(i) if the risk regarding major works capital programmes facing unanticipated challenges as a result of external factors during the lifespan of projects (Risk 6.22) was now higher than before, taking account of the position regarding the Aurs Road City Deal project; <li data-bbox="409 1198 1048 1329">(ii) the timescale for completing the school condition survey, and if this would be earlier than February 2026 as work on this was ongoing (Risk 2.1.3 refers); and 	<p data-bbox="1070 624 2101 686">In summary, the Resilience Co-ordinator provided feedback on these issues as follow:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1070 791 2112 1161">(i) Following discussion at the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and through the Environment Department's consideration of risks, it was determined that the risk scoring should not be altered as a result of issues being encountered regarding the Aurs Road City Deal project. The risk in the SRR seeks to be reflective of the entirety of the Capital Programme of works. Due to the Aurs Road project having a standalone Project Risk Register and project governance in place, and regular updates to Elected Members being established separately in the days following the Committee meeting, it was considered disproportionate to increase the likelihood scoring (and as a result the overall risk score) further for the full Programme. <li data-bbox="1070 1198 2112 1366">(ii) The condition survey work is separate from the annual capital programme process. A new control has been added to the SRR for the broader condition survey work, reflecting that these surveys will be taking place across all Council buildings during 2025/26 and 2026/27 (completion target April 2027), to help prioritise capital spend on maintenance, upgrades, etc.

	<p>(iii) how often the risk score for Braidbar Quarry was revisited (Risk 3.5 refers) and the score currently attributed to the likelihood of there being a risk, given the mitigations already in place.</p>	<p>(iii) The merits of the Braidbar Quarry risks continuing to remain on the SRR is considered as part of the two monthly CMT discussions on risk management. In May 2025, it was considered that the current scoring should continue. As part of this, there is a desire for a review of recent inspection and repair reports, and there remains a keen public interest in any works on the privately owned areas of this land. The next CMT review (July/August 2025) will revisit this risk and consider whether Environment Departmental risk arrangements are a more suitable home for this risk. Should it be determined that the <i>likelihood</i> score should be reduced to 1 (low), the overall risk score would reduce to 4 (low), and therefore the risk would no longer feature on the SRR.</p>
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