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3.4“The Council has for years identified Limited Resources as one of its top risks. This continues to be the case. There have been a number of high profile mistakes and liabilities, some on-going and Thanet remains a local authority with very low reserves and very little scope to do anything, year on year, other than reduce running costs and to fund investment in assets from selling other assets. Some other authorities have been able to create some headroom and risk appetite to invest in new or expanded services and/or buy assets, both of which can earn a long-term return. This can support the revenue budget and so help to mitigate the losses in external government funding. Thanet has lived a hand-to-mouth existence for many years, trapped in a cycle of cost-cutting and a dependency on ever-depleting government funding, without the wherewithal to take the radical steps needed to lift the council out of this cycle.”

5.

Both homelessness and Cost of living are in our very highest category of risk, classified as extreme; and both of them are intrinsically linked with each other. Again, although I'm aware that this is an ongoing theme, so much of this is dependant on central intervention. We have previously taken sensible measures to protect residents and our service provision, such as beginning an in house temporary housing service; but while this service is in it's infancy, we have significant numbers of residents placed out of area, and disruption to families and children as well as direct costs to us that add to our financial struggles as a Council, and only growth and direct investment can change this. What can we do directly and financially to further invest in measures that can help our residents with our ongoing crisis in terms of housing?