

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Corporate Risk Register</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Audit Committee on 7 June 2023
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) provides for robust and transparent decision-making. Effective ERM is therefore an integral part of the Council's governance arrangements and helps demonstrate the effective use of resources and sound internal controls. The Council's Risk Management Policy and Guidance sets out the policy framework and formally guidance for officers to enable them to pro-actively identify and manage its risks.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee is asked to review the Corporate Risk Register (at Appendix A) to determine that strategic risks are being actively managed.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Corporate Risk Register has been revised by the officer Risk Management Group and Corporate Leadership Team and is shown at Appendix A.

The Council's top corporate risks are:

- Budget and financial resilience
- Health & Social Care Reform

The Chief Executive will present the report to the Committee.

Since the register was last reported to Audit Committee on 1 February 2023.

There is one new risk 21 Housing Needs.

We have removed risks:

- 16: Public transport following the success tender and announce of additional funding for buses
- 19: election administration following the successful elections.

One risk has increased Risk 13 – Safeguarding Adults

The overall risk position has been stable since February.

## **Background**

The Council's Constitution sets out the remit of the Audit Committee as follows with regard to Risk Management.

*Extract from Constitution (paragraph 4.4.3.2 (d))*

- b) To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the council.
- c) To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the committee

## **Analysis of Issues**

The following changes have been made to the Corporate Risk Register since the register was last presented to the Committee on

### 2.1 Risk 4 – Uncontrolled Development - Update

Progress on the Local Plan Update (LPU) is ongoing. This includes expanding our evidence. National government launched a consultation on changes to national planning policy in December 2022. The government's response to the consultation is expected in Spring 2023 but is yet to materialise. A revised timetable for delivery of the LPU, known as the Local Development Scheme, is due to be considered by Executive in July 2023. Timely progress towards adopting the LPU early in 2025 will provide the Borough with increasing protection from uncontrolled development.

### 2.2 Risk 9 Cyber Attack – Update

The Council continues to strengthen its defences against the risk of successful cyber-attack and has retained Public Service Network (PSN) accreditation. This enables the Council to have assurance that the Council meets the standards of information security to access government data networks. However, this risk has not reduced due to the hostile cyber landscape.

### 2.3 Increase in Risk 13 Safeguarding Adults

There is risk associated with the change in legislation for Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) as the plans have not yet been confirmed and the demands on the system are not yet fully known. This risk has increased in likelihood due to the increasing pressures that are happening now (linked to risks 3- Workforce, and 7-Sustainability) impacting on workforce and this leading to a decrease in performance and delivery in this area.

### 2.4 Reduction in Risk 16 Public Transport

The risk to public transport has been effectively mitigated by the success retendering of local bus services. On the 17 May the government announced additional funding for buses outside of London reducing this risk further. We have therefore de-escalated this risk to the Place and Growth Risk Register.

## 2.5 Reduction Risk 19 Elections

Following the successful administration of the Borough, Town and Parish elections on the 4 May. This risk has been de-escalated to the Resources and Assets Directorate Risk Register. The successful national and local campaigns on voter identification meant that the election was able to run effectively. This risk will be kept under review by the Deputy Chief Executive and may need to be escalated later in the year. The 2024 borough election will be an all-out election on new ward boundaries (yet to be confirmed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England) and combined with Police and Crime Commissioner elections. If a general election is also called to co-inside with these elections, they will also be on new parliamentary constituency boundaries and require Wokingham to count two constituencies for the first time.

## 2.6 Risk 20 Website Replacement - Update

The Website Replacement programme is making good progress. The programme has entered its Beta Phase on schedule: finalizing configuration and starting the deployment of the standard system settings, permissions and profiles. The risk remains yellow as the content load phase is a critical element and is not yet completed. Resources have been secured for this phase and the programme remains on track for delivery. Adopting a prioritised and agile approach to content load means that the pages residents use the most will be loaded first, and the others will then follow.

Contingency arrangements are in place should the new website not be ready for deployment to ensure residents are not impacted should there be slippage in the timetable for deployment.

This risk is a short-term nature and will be removed from the Corporate Risk Register following go-live in July.

## 2.7 New Risk 21 Housing Needs

Due to increasing need and complexity of housing needs in the borough combined with the pressures on the supply of affordable housing this risk has escalated from the Place and Growth risk register. This risk is particularly acute in specialist housing. The financial impact is felt across services including Adults and Children's. The Council has had a strong track record of maximising developer contributions and securing grants to deliver affordable housing. However increasing the supply of affordable housing is a medium to long term challenge. In the short term the Council is identifying opportunities to mitigate the impact through prioritisation of high impact delivery and in the medium term to develop a new Housing Strategy to respond to this risk. This risk is likely to be a medium term risk.

## **Other Risk Management Activity**

2.8 The Risk Management Group has continued to work on embedding effective risk management with a focus on risk in programmes. This has included facilitating risk workshops to support identification and mitigation of programme risks.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	Revenue

### **Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

Effective risk management mitigates financial risks associated with the Council achieving its objectives.

### **Cross-Council Implications**

Risk management influences all areas of the Council – effective risk management is one of the ways assurances is provided that the Council’s key priorities and objectives will be achieved.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required on the Corporate Risk Register. The impact on Equality is assessed in the impact of each risk.

***Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030***

The effective management of risk supports the achievement of this important priority

### **Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**

N/A

### **List of Background Papers**

[Protiviti global survey top risks 2023-2032](#)

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