

TITLE	Corporate Risk Register refresh – January 2016
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Audit Committee on 10 February 2016
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive

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 control environment and helps demonstrate the effective use of resources and sound governance. The council's Corporate Risk Register (CRR) demonstrates that the council is pro-actively identifying and managing its significant business risks.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit Committee consider and note the risks and mitigating actions of the Council's corporate risks as detailed in the attached CRR.

This was reviewed and updated following the November Corporate Risk Register refresh process.

Given the changing operating environment for the Council Audit Committee should consider whether the risk appetite for each risk remains reflective of current conditions.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

As part of the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) refresh services have reviewed and updated the risk register. As a result an update has been obtained over the control of each risk since the last refresh. This report summarises those changes and the refreshed CRR is presented for your consideration and comment. The updated CRR is attached to this report (Appendix A).

Background

The roles and responsibilities of Members and Officers with respect to Risk Management are detailed in the Council's Enterprise Risk Management Policy (ERMP) which was approved by the Audit Committee. The ERMP states that CLT is responsible for identifying and managing the Council's risks and opportunities, and for setting an example to staff. CLT is also responsible for identifying, analysing and profiling high-level strategic and cross-cutting risks on a regular basis.

The Audit Committee is required to seek confirmation that the Council's strategic risks are being proactively managed. Strategic risks are essentially those risks that might occur and could prevent the Council from achieving its objectives as detailed in its Vision, Priorities and Corporate Plan.

Analysis of Issues

Substantive changes have been made to the following risk by the relevant Strategic Director to reflect recent changes/ developments:

- Risk 2 – Likelihood of risk of inability to match supply and demand for school places has reduced from ‘Significant’ to ‘Low’.
- Risk 8 – Impact of avoidable serious harm or death of a vulnerable adult for whom the council has a responsibility has reduced from ‘Critical’ to ‘Major’.
- Risk 14 – Risk that the Council fails to deliver key investment priorities through insufficient resources or inadequate planning. Further actions to mitigate risk are all complete and are now existing controls.
- Risk 28 – Likelihood of inability to cope with increased burdens associated with the change to eligibility criteria and other additional requirements of the Care Act has increased from ‘Moderate’ to ‘Significant’.
- Risk 29 – Likelihood of a disruption to services and internal business has been decreased from ‘Significant’ to ‘Low’.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

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

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial implications to be noted as a result of this refresh. However there are risks within the register that should they materialise, would have a significant financial impact on the authority.

Cross-Council Implications

A risk is an unexpected event or action that can adversely affect the Council's ability to achieve its objectives and successfully execute its strategies. Risk Management is about managing opportunities and threats to objectives. Therefore good risk management will assist the Council in delivering its services and achieving its priorities.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

Previous Corporate Risk Register papers to Audit Committee
Enterprise Risk Management Strategy and Policy

Contact Julie Holland	Service Governance and Improvement Services
Telephone No 0118 974 6630	Email Julie.Holland@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 29 January 2016	Version No. V1

This page is intentionally left blank