

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Extraordinary Audit & Corporate Governance Committee

DATE: 21st April 2022

CONTACT OFFICER: Steven Mair, Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875368

WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE – END OF QUARTER 4 2021/22

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to report to the Audit and Corporate Governance committee on the corporate risk register with the opportunity to comment and amend it, as shown in Appendix 1
- 1.2. This is the fourth revision of the risk register which is being reviewed on a monthly basis. This is to ensure that the Council continues its development of a proper strategic risk register.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. This report recommends that the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee notes the revisions to the risk register and comments on the report.

3. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no direct financial implications of the updates on the actions but resolution of the queries/issues will improve the Council's processes which underpins sound financial management, by way of example the Council's accounts and budget

(b) Risk Management

Risk	RAG Before Mitigation	Mitigation	RAG After Mitigation
Failure to operate an adequate strategic risk register exposes the Council to risk across a wide variety of services because: Risks are not identified Actions are not planned and progress reported Members are not made aware of the serious risks facing the Council	Red	Pro active officer risk and audit board Pro active management of the risk register Risk register that encompasses strategic risks with actions, milestones Reporting that shows trends, update on actions, impact of actions	Amber – to reflect the continuing work to develop management of strategic risk (currently, work over the coming months will improve this to Green)

(c) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications in this report

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for an EIA

4. **Supporting Information**

4.1. **Improvement to the council's approach to Risk Management**

4.1.1. Risk management is a critical part of good governance and it is needed to effectively deliver the Council's priorities and as part of the risk and audit board's continuing work, further improvements have been made to the council's risk management approach including:

- An initial revised draft of the risk management strategy has been completed, which will be presented to the July committee for comment and amendment
- Risk management training has been rolled out to staff and to colleagues in HB law
- Development of departmental risk registers is in progress
- A forward plan of in-depth reviews of corporate risks is owned and led by the risk and audit board

4.1.2. The Corporate risk register will be reported on a quarterly basis to Corporate Leadership Team in advance of the Audit and Corporate Governance committee.

4.2. **Revised Risk Register**

4.2.1. Risks that are already on the register have been reviewed to ensure they reflect the current risks the Council is facing, a review into staff related risks has been undertaken to consider mitigating actions being taken council- wide.

4.3. **Changes to note**

4.3.1. The following risk has been reviewed in depth by the Risk and Audit board:

- Risk 7: Elections and Electoral Registration

4.3.2. The risk was reviewed to ensure that the description of the risk, controls and mitigating actions were current. We also considered the impact of changes to the election cycle to all out and any potential impacts on boundary changes.

4.3.3. The risk was also reviewed in light of the mitigating actions in place including the tailored project approach being applied to the running of the May elections.

4.3.4. There are two new risks on the register, to reflect the increase in energy prices and the risk associated with the conflict in Ukraine:

- Risk 15: Energy – new risk to reflect the rise in energy prices
- Risk 16: Impact of the conflict in Ukraine – new risk to reflect impact on housing, education, supply chains etc.

4.3.5. In addition, the following risks have been substantially reviewed:

- Risk 1: Delivery of the Adult Social Care (ASC) Transformation Programme – updated progress on the Financial Assessment and Charging Workstream
- Risk 2: Pandemics – refocussed the risk to relate to pandemics in general, not just Covid
- Risk 3: Temporary Accommodation – referenced impact of the conflict in Ukraine on temporary accommodation
- Risk 4: Disposal of Assets – updated on appointment of preferred supplier for the phase I development of the disposals strategy
- Risk 5a: Financial sustainability – Council approval of budget for 2022/23 and attention being turned to the delivery of the 2023/24 budget.
- Risk 5b: Accounting – Implementation of a structures and well tested approach to preparing its accounts
- Risk 5c: Financial processes – progress on the finance action plan
- Risk 6: The Council does not take adequate mitigation to reduce the risk of injury or death from incidents within the Council – update on the approach to Health and Safety auditing
- Risk 7: Elections and Electoral Registration – current controls updated in light of upcoming elections (as noted above)
- Risk 8: Recovery and Renewal Plan – update on functional capability assessments and how they are being turned into costed plans
- Risk 9: Business Continuity and Emergency Planning – extensive review of the risk, including description, consequences, mitigation and actions
- Risk 10: Service delivery risk due to workforce recruitment and retention issues – reviewed and references made to the functional capability assessments
- Risk 11: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Local Area Inspection – Monthly SEND strategic board meetings has been added as a control
- Risk 12: Cyber Security – update on IT modernisation programme as a control
- Risk 13: Information Governance and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – Arrangements regarding recruitment of a data Protection Officer included
- Risk 14: Council Companies – Establishment of shareholder oversight group for GRE5 as a control and update on actions over the next financial year
- Risk 15: Energy – new risk to reflect the rise in energy prices (as noted above)

- Risk 16: Impact of the conflict in Ukraine – new risk to reflect impact on housing, education, supply chains etc. (as noted above)

5. **Comments of Other Committees**

5.1. There are no comments from other Committees

6. **Conclusion**

6.1. Members are asked to review and comment on the Corporate Risk Register and note the report.

7. **Appendices Attached**

Appendix A – Corporate Risk Register

8. **Background Papers**

None