

Title of Report	CORPORATE RISK UPDATE	
Presented by	Andy Barton Strategic Director	
Background Papers	None	Public Report: Yes
Purpose of Report	To provide Committee members with an update in respect of the Council's corporate risk register.	
Recommendations	THAT THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE NOTES AND COMMENTS ON THE LATEST CORPORATE RISK REGISTER FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE RISK SCRUTINY GROUP.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of the agreed Risk Management approach this report presents the latest version of the Corporate Risk Register as reviewed at the last meeting of the Risk Scrutiny Group on 16 March 2021. In line with the policy, members of this Committee, and Cabinet are to receive periodic updates on risks monitored through the Corporate Risk Register.
- 1.2 In reflecting the discussion at the last meeting of the committee a more in-depth consideration into the remaining 'red' risks has been carried out which has seen movement in a number of scores as summarised in the table below. Out of the 14 active risks, 0 are Red, 10 are Amber and 4 are Green.
- 1.3 A new potential risk has been identified as Risk 15 which is related to possible long medium term impacts of post COVID on both council service provision and demand for services. As this is a new risk it will be monitored over the next cycle and more fully reported to the committee should it develop further.
- 1.4 The updated Risk Register can be found at Appendix 1 and a summary of changes since the last update in Jan 2021 is set out below.

Risk Ref	Risk Title	Summary of Change
1	SOCIAL/POLITICAL/LEGAL Death / serious harm to a vulnerable person receiving a council service and safeguarding compliance	Reduced Residual Risk Likelihood reduced - recent Audit result shows progress shows a reasonable level of assurance and an action plan is in place, with continued monitoring via Audit & Governance Committee

4	LEGAL / FINANCIAL Contracts are not properly procured and managed	Reduced Residual Risk Scores reduced to reflect progress with contract management processes, and procurement changes. As this develops score predicted to drop further. Oversight Boards in place covering all major projects, and a statutory compliance group formed considering addressing these issues in contracts
5	LEGAL /TECHNOLOGICAL Loss or unlawful use of personal data constituting breach of data protection legislation	Residual Risk Reduced Scores reduced to reflect high assurance audit review and assessment of compliance
8	COMMERCIAL/POLITICAL/ FINANCIAL Projects are poorly managed	Residual Risk Reduced Work to address this area is ongoing. Board structure covering all major projects now in place providing senior management oversight and cabinet member clarity. On large scale projects a greater use of external PM is in place and reaping benefits for new and continuing major projects. Methodology internally being revisited to provide clarity to staff.
10	FINANCIAL/LEGAL/ REPUTATIONAL Council is subject to fraud, corruption or theft	Residual Risk Reduced Scores reduced on reassessment and update of actions including recent audit work, Annual Governance Statement and Fraud training refresh mandatory for all staff. Some outstanding audit work around COVID related grants (but planned resources to enable to take place)
12	"POLITICAL/ ORGANISATIONAL The Council is affected by Local Government Reorganisation"	Residual Risk Reduced Likelihood reduced to 2 - reflecting the time period should any change come forward. At present no white paper has been published and there is no open round for reorganisation bids. Government recent stance has been due to the Pandemic work that this is not the time for reorganisation.
13	POLITICAL / ORGANISATIONAL The Council is affected by the UK's departure from the EU, including a potential 'no deal' Brexit	Residual Risk Reduced Impacts on council have been minimal at current point. Continued watching brief for planned furthering of border controls, mitigation and funding already in place to address expected impacts on NWL services as new alignment beds in.
14	ORGANISATIONAL/FINANCIAL Council is subject to large scale and medium term reduction in	Residual Risk Reduced Balanced budget achieved with additional funding from government to cover extenuating

	staffing/supplies/increase in restrictions etc leading to risks and ongoing medium/long term impacts on either the financial or reputational standing of the Council	costs related to pandemic. Funding etc is however only secured for set periods and hence ensuring awareness and engagement in place, as well as lobbying in appropriate forums. Some services (waste in particular) still remain challenged in providing full services within the timelines desired.
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- 1.5 The Strategic Director acts as lead for corporate risk and is satisfied that the main risks posed to the organisation have been captured within the risk register and that control measures to mitigate these risks are appropriate. The report is based on an update in March 2021, any further update on significant changes in risk will be provided at the meeting.
- 1.6 The Audit and Governance Committee are asked to review and note this risk update, and provide any feedback they wish to be considered by the Risk Scrutiny Group at its next meeting.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Effective risk management underpins the ability of the Council to deliver against all its priorities.
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	None
Equalities/Diversity:	None
Customer Impact:	None
Economic and Social Impact:	None
Environment and Climate Change:	None
Consultation/Community Engagement:	None
Risks:	The Council manages its risks within existing budgets. Effective risk management protects the Council from insurance and/or compensation claims, fraud, and a range of other financial and non financial risks
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