

Report to:	AUDIT PANEL
Date:	Tuesday, 14 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Stuart Fair - Director of Finance Martin Nixon – Risk, Insurance and Information Governance Manager
Subject:	CORPORATE RISK REGISTER REVIEW
Report Summary:	To present the Corporate Risk Register detailed at Appendix 1 for comment and approval.
Recommendations:	Members consider and approve the Corporate Risk Register attached at Appendix 1 .
Corporate Plan:	Managing risks will enable the Council to deliver services safely and in an informed manner to achieve the best possible outcomes for residents.
Policy Implications:	Effective risk management supports the achievement of Council objectives and demonstrates a commitment to high standards of corporate governance.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	Effective risk management assists in safeguarding assets, ensuring the best use of resources and the effective delivery of services. It also helps to keep insurance premiums and compensation payments to a minimum.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The Council has a statutory responsibility to have in place arrangements for managing risks, as stated in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (amended 2016): 'A relevant authority must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which includes effective arrangements for the management of risk'. Regularly reviewing the Council's arrangements for risk and updating them as needed ensures that the Council is managing its statutory responsibility. This report is aimed at addressing the requirement that the Council achieves its strategic aims and operates its business, under general principles of good governance and that it identifies risks which threaten its ability to be legally compliant and operate within the confines of the legislative framework.
Risk Management:	Failure to manage risks will impact on service delivery, the achievement of objectives and the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.
Access to Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Martin Nixon, Risk, Insurance and Information Governance Manager. Telephone: 0161 342 3883 e-mail: martin.nixon@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report presents the revised and updated Corporate Risk Register for comment, challenge and approval. The report was presented to the Senior Leadership Team on 28 February 2023.

2. WHAT IS RISK MANAGEMENT?

- 2.1 Risk Management is the process of identifying risks, evaluating their likelihood and potential impact and determining the most effective methods of controlling them or responding to them. It is a means of maximising opportunities and minimising the costs and disruption to the organisation caused by undesired events.
- 2.2 Corporate Risks are potential barriers to the Council achieving its priorities and have the potential to disrupt large parts of our service.

3. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

- 3.1 The Corporate Risk Register is attached at **Appendix 1**. It details the risk scores evaluated both in November 2022 and February 2023.
- 3.2 Risk owners (responsible Assistant Directors or Service Unit Managers) have assisted the Risk, Insurance and Information Governance Manager to review the Corporate Risks they have responsibility for. Review comments have been added to the risk register under Appendix 1 alongside each risk.
- 3.3 Risk scores across the whole register have remained consistent with the position in November 2022. There are still Red risks in respect of Risk 1 (Medium Term Financial Plan) where Finance are working with Services to mitigate a forecast budget overspend, Risk 5 (Protection to Vulnerable Children) where a recent Ofsted review has checked on progress with improvement plans, and Risk 26 (Cost of Living Crisis) where the multiple impacts of rising budget costs and increasing public service demand must be managed.
- 3.4 Risks 25 (Recruitment issues) and 26 (Cost of Living Crisis) are considered as having effect on all Council services. Therefore review comments have been prepared following consultation with all Service areas.
- 3.5 The residual score for Risk 8 (Negative impact of Coronavirus on health and wellbeing objectives) has reduced, this now regarded as an Amber category risk. A reduced prevalence of infection has reduced the risk likelihood. There remains indirect impact due to the disruption caused by previous lockdowns and there has been an infection surge over the autumn/winter period.
- 3.6 The key developments in the risk register following review in November 2022 and February 2023 are summarised below.

Risk	Comment	Risk Rating Nov 2022	Risk Rating Feb 2023
1	Finance: Risk the Council is unable to deliver it's Medium Term Financial Plan The projected year end position is currently for the Council to overspend by approximately £2.5m, this will need to be funded by the utilisation of finite reserves. The budget for 23/24 will only	25	25

Risk	Comment	Risk Rating Nov 2022	Risk Rating Feb 2023
	be achieved by the achievement of £16m of savings across the directorates.		
5	Failing to protect vulnerable children - Vulnerable children are put at risk due to poor systems/processes and reduced service provision. Ofsted undertook a Focused Visit in April 2022 on the Front Door, which looked at Early Help, MASH and Duty & Assessment teams. A written notice of improvement was received from the DfE following the visit, and an improvement plan has been agreed. A DfE 6-month review took place on 17/01/23, for which the Service is currently awaiting outcomes.	15	15
8	Population Health: Negative impact of Coronavirus on health and wellbeing objectives. Level of disruption due to Covid-19 impact and measures has reduced in recent months due to changes in policy as part of the government's 'Living With Covid' Strategy, and due to reduced prevalence of infection in the community. There remains a high ongoing indirect impact due to the disruption caused by previous waves of the pandemic and measures put in place. There continue to be unpredictable waves of infection including a surge in infections over the autumn/winter period	15	10
18	Failure to ensure there are sufficient high quality school places (including specialist places and early years provision) and that children all have fair access to our schools. Education working closely with Place and Legal Services to address failings in the BMS Heating system at GAA and Samuel Laycock. If this work cannot be realised in the next three months, there is risk of sustained school closure.	12	12
25	Delivery of services across the Council put at risk due to inability to recruit the required workforce. Rolling recruitment campaigns are in place for key statutory functions. The Apprenticeship levy is being used where possible. Building Control are experiencing recruitment difficulties due to private sector competition. A benchmarking exercise on key job roles is also underway to understand our competitive place in the market particularly for key professional roles.	12	12
26	The risk that the Cost of Living crisis causes budget management pressures, increases in demand for health and social care services, and a detrimental effect to Tameside poverty levels and health. Exchequer collection rates have not deteriorated to date, but this situation will continue to be monitored. Inflation and general market conditions are bringing significant implications for delivery of Growth projects. There is also concern regarding public health impacts caused to those in fuel poverty.	15	15

3.7 The corporate risk scores are summarised in the risk heat maps below:-

Heat Map 1 – November 2022 (24 Risks)

		Impact level				
		Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Medium (3)	Major (4)	Major Disaster (5)
Likelihood						
Almost Certain	(5)					1
Very likely	(4)			3	5	
Likely	(3)			3	4	3
Unlikely	(2)			1	2	
Very Low	(1)				2	

Heat Map 1 – February 2023 (24 Risks)

		Impact level				
		Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Medium (3)	Major (4)	Major Disaster (5)
Likelihood						
Almost Certain	(5)					1
Very likely	(4)			3	5	
Likely	(3)			3	4	2
Unlikely	(2)			1	2	1
Very Low	(1)				2	

3.8 The analysis shows that there are currently a total of 8 Red risks across the register, this total a reduction in comparison to the 9 Red risks reported in November 2022.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 As set out at the front of the report.