

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>AUDIT PANEL</b>
<b>Date:</b>	24 November 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kathy Roe – Director of Finance Martin Nixon – Risk, Insurance and Information Governance Manager
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>CORPORATE RISK REGISTER REVIEW</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	To present to the Corporate Risk Register detailed at <b>Appendix 1</b> for comment and approval.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	Members consider and approve the Corporate Risk Register at <b>(Appendix 1)</b> and note the development work detailed in Section 4 of the report.
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	Managing risks will enable the Council to deliver services safely and in an informed manner to achieve the best possible outcomes for residents
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	Effective risk management supports the achievement of Council objectives and demonstrates a commitment to high standards of corporate governance.
<b>Financial Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer &amp; Chief Finance Officer)</b>	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.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	<p>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):</p> <p><i>‘A relevant authority must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which includes effective arrangements for the management of risk’.</i></p> <p>Regularly reviewing the Council’s arrangements for risk and updating them as needed ensures that the Council is managing its statutory responsibility.</p> <p>Risk management can relate to legal aspects of the council’s business, however, the content of this report does not have any specific legal implications. Legal risks to the organisation are incorporated in the Service plans risk registers.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	Failure to manage risks will impact on service delivery, the achievement of objectives and the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan.

**Background Information:** The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Martin Nixon, Risk, Insurance and Information Governance Manager



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report presents the revised and updated Corporate Risk Register for the Council for comment, challenge and approval.

## 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 May 2020 and October 2020. All changes are highlighted in blue.
- 3.2 Risk owners (or responsible Assistant Directors / SUM's) 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 The Council's risk profile is still adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, but the review has caused a downward shift in scores – as reflected in the comparisons between the May and October 2020 heat maps below.
- 3.4 The Council has had the time to adjust working practices in many areas to accommodate the additional hazards caused by factors such as social distancing, home working and economic impacts. The high risk scores in some areas have been selected due to uncertainty which exists - over future developments in the coronavirus and the levels of central government funding to be provided in 2021/22. The previous risk 'Failure to meet objectives of the Corporate Plan due to the Covid-19 pandemic' has been removed, with the assessment shifting to analysis of individual Corporate Risks attaching to the various plan objectives. This analysis shows that there are currently a total of 10 Red risks across the register. Although this is a reduction from the 19 Red risks reported in May 2020, this still demonstrates the disruption caused by the pandemic when compared to the pre-Covid level of 4 Red in October 2019.
- 3.5 October reviews have resulted in the following changes to specific risks -
  - a. The risk description for Risk 9 has been re-written to identify the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic as being the most significant threat to Population Health objectives.
  - b. A new risk has been added (Risk 24) to identify the continuing maintenance of robust ICT security measures as a separate area of risk to the information governance standards covered under Risk 12.

3.6 The corporate risks are summarised in the risk heat maps below:-

**Heat Map 1 – May 2020 (23 Risks)**

	Likelihood	Impact level				
		Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Medium (3)	Major (4)	Major Disaster (5)
Almost Certain	(5)				2	3
Very likely	(4)			3	10	3
Likely	(3)					1
Unlikely	(2)					1
Very Low	(1)					

**Heat Map 2 – October 2020 (23 Risks)**

	Likelihood	Impact level				
		Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Medium (3)	Major (4)	Major Disaster (5)
Almost Certain	(5)					2
Very likely	(4)		1	6	6	
Likely	(3)				3	2
Unlikely	(2)				1	1
Very Low	(1)				1	

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

- 4.1 The Risk, Insurance and Information Governance Manager has met with the CCG Executive Support Manager to begin work on alignment of the risk management systems, format of the risk register, and definitions for Impact and Likelihood so that they work for both the Council and the Tameside and Glossop CCG.
- 4.2 There is a plan to develop 'operational' risk registers for Council Service teams in Quarters 3 and 4 of 2020/21. The intention is to reduce the size of the existing Corporate Risk Register to allow the single leadership team to focus their risk management responsibilities on the over-arching risks to the Council. Risks not retained on the Corporate Register will transfer to the appropriate Service operational register and will be reported by exception to the Single Leadership Team. The Risk, Insurance and Information Governance Team will provide guidance to Service teams on the process to identify and record suitable risks in each Council team.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 As set out on the front of the report.