

Report to:	AUDIT PANEL
Date:	16 March 2021
Reporting Officer:	Kathy Roe – Director of Finance Martin Nixon – Risk, Insurance and Information Governance Manager
Subject:	CORPORATE RISK REGISTER REVIEW
Report Summary:	To present to the Corporate Risk Register detailed at Appendix 1 for comment and approval.
Recommendations:	Members consider and approve the Corporate Risk Register at (Appendix 1) and note the development work detailed in Section 4 of the report.
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)	<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>‘A relevant authority must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which includes effective arrangements for the management of risk’.</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>
Risk Management:	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 October 2020 and March 2021. All changes are highlighted in blue.
- 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 Service delivery, working practices, and the Council's allocation of financial and staff resources continue to be influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic. This is illustrated by the risk scores still being at higher levels than prior to the March 2020 lockdown, as demonstrated by the 'heat map' comparisons provided under item 3.6.
- 3.4 The key developments highlighted by reviewing the risks in March are detailed below.

Risk	Comment	Risk Rating Oct 2020	Risk Rating March 2021
1	The 2021/22 budget has been balanced and the 2020/21 outturn is likely to be close to budget. A savings delivery tracker and reporting programme has been developed to ensure that delivery of savings is monitored.	25	20
5	Contacts received and open cases in Children's Social Care have increased significantly over the past 5-6 months compared to pre-Covid levels. This trend is being seen nationally and is linked to the theory that issues not reported during lockdown would add to demand during recovery as children return to school.	15	15
8	A comprehensive summary of the Council's pandemic strategy and key mitigations is provided under review comments for this risk under Appendix 1.	25	25
20	The proposed action to ensure the Council has local development plans in place following the dissolving of the GMSF (Greater Manchester	8	8

	Spatial Framework) is included in review comments for this risk under Appendix 1.		
23	<p>ICT Services have increased the risk score for ICT technical vulnerabilities from 15 to 16 (Red). Additional resources are reported as required for to manage delivery of the Council's cyber security strategy agreed in September.</p> <p>It is proposed to delete the last sentence from the Risk 23 review comment when the risk register is reported to the Audit Panel in March as it may put an ICT vulnerability due to lack of capacity in the public domain.</p>	15	16

3.5 This analysis shows that there are currently a total of 12 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 risks in October 2019.

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

Heat Map 1 – October 2020 (23 Risks)

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

Heat Map 2 – March 2021 (23 Risks)

		Impact level				
		Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Medium (3)	Major (4)	Major Disaster (5)
Likelihood						
Almost Certain (5)						1
Very likely (4)				5	8	1
Likely (3)			1	1	1	2
Unlikely (2)					1	1
Very Low (1)					1	

4. RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW

4.1 Work is ongoing to develop a joint risk management system for both the Council and the Tameside and Glossop CCG, and to develop 'operational' risk registers for Directorates. Capacity problems have caused delays in progress during the last quarter.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 As set out on the front of the report.