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| Report to: | AUDIT PANEL |
| Date: | Tuesday, 15 March 2022 |
| Reporting Officer: | Kathy Roes - 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): <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> 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 ahead of the report being presented to the Audit Panel on 15 March 2022.

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 2021 and February 2022.
- 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 are included the risk register under Appendix 1 alongside each risk.
- 3.3 Service delivery in some areas of the Council continues to be influenced by high Tameside Covid-19 infection rates. When compared to the risk scores last reported in November 2021 the total of 7 Red risks is unchanged, which is still higher than the 4 Red risks reported prior to the March 2020 pandemic/lockdown. Current risk scores are displayed in the heat maps provided in Section 3.6 below.
- 3.4 The key developments in the risk register following review in November 2021 and February 2022 are summarised below.

| Risk | Comment | Risk Rating Nov 2021 | Risk Rating Feb 2022 |
|------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Finance: Risk the Council is unable to deliver it's Medium Term Financial Plan The 2022/23 budget is currently being finalised however there continues to be excessive reliance on the achievement of savings and reliance on one-off funding. This position is not sustainable in the long term and there will therefore be focus on transformation of services. | 20 | 15 |
| 3 | Adults: Failure to manage the local home care market and care home capacity available to deliver appropriate and timely care packages and appropriate placements for people requiring long term care. | 16 | 16 |

| Risk | Comment | Risk Rating Nov 2021 | Risk Rating Feb 2022 |
|------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Recruitment to the 'in-house' long term support service is proving difficult. Work is underway to review the cost of care for 2022-23. | | |
| 8 | Population Health: Negative impact of Coronavirus on health and wellbeing objectives. Significant recent disruption has been caused by the Omicron wave. Public services have faced capacity issues due to staffing absence. Local plans are now focussing on long term approaches to 'living with Covid' and addressing inequalities, including the ongoing vaccination rollout. | 25 | 20 |
| 5 | Children's: Failing to protect vulnerable children - Vulnerable children are put at risk due to poor systems/processes and reduced service provision. The risk score remains at an increased level due to the expectation that issues not identified during lockdown will require attention during recovery. Contacts and open cases have both increased significantly and we are also seeing a rise in adolescents with emerging complex mental health needs. | 15 | 15 |
| 14 | Implementation of a GM Integrated Care System may increase the operational and financial risks of the Council and may delay progress in implementing local health strategies. All localities are meeting with Sir Richard Leese (Chair Designate of the Integrated Care Board) to talk through their ambitions with the Tameside session taking place on 2 February. | 12 | 12 |

3.5 This analysis shows that there are currently a total of 7 Red risks across the register. When compared to the 19 Red risks reported in May 2020 it can be seen that we are travelling towards the pre-Covid level of 4 Red risks reported in October 2019.

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

Heat Map 1 – November 2021 (23 Risks)

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

Heat Map 2 – February 2022 (23 Risks)

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

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 As set out on the front of the report.