

Report to the Audit and Governance Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: AGC--2020/21
Date of meeting: 25 January 2021

Portfolio: Leader of the Council
Subject: Risk Management
Responsible Officer: Andrew Small (01992 564278).
Democratic Services: Laura Kirman (01992 564273).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To review the current risk register and consider whether there are any new or emerging risks that are not on the current Corporate Risk register that should be referred to the officer Risk Management Group**

Executive Summary:

This report gives the Audit and Governance Committee the opportunity to comment on and suggest new risks for inclusion on the Corporate risk register or changes to the scoring of existing risks.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enhance the Council's risk management framework.

Other Options for Action:

None. Formal responsibility for making recommendations to Cabinet on risk management issues lies with the Audit and Governance Committee. Members may suggest new risks for inclusion or changes to the scoring of existing risks.

Report:

Corporate Risk Register

- The corporate risk register was reviewed by the Council's Officer Risk Management Group at their meeting of 06 January 2021 where all risks were reviewed, and subsequently by the Corporate Governance Group. The narrative for each risk has been reviewed and, where appropriate, updated to reflect the current situation (appendix 1).
- The table below outlines the direction of travel for each risk since it was updated for the December 2020 Audit and Governance Committee, with a brief commentary supporting each risk.

No	Risk	Residual risk rating (i.e. after controls)		Commentary
		December 2020	January 2021	
1	Local Plan	B1	B1	No change since December's update. Still waiting for adoption of the Local Plan, which has been delayed due to the Inspector's lack of availability. Adoption by full Council anticipated summer 2021
2	Welfare Reform	A2	A2	Use of a multi-agency community hubs to help signpost customers continues to be rolled out to help mitigate this risk
3	Financial Resilience	B1	B1	Updated to reflect adoption of the MTFP (Medium Term Financial Plan) by Cabinet in November 2020
4	Economic Development	B1	B1	With the departure of the Community and Partnerships Service Director this risk is now owned by the Council's Partnerships & Economic Development specialist, with reports from them on progress going to January's Cabinet
5	Data/information	C2	C2	Actions continue to be progressed through the officer Information Governance Group, which is currently meeting monthly
6	Business continuity	C2	C2	The Council continues its business continuity activities as part of its recovery response to Covid-19.
7	Housing capital finance	C2	C2	The recommendations from the consultant's high-level review of the HRA will be prioritised. The HRA strategy, including housing capital requirements, is being worked on

No	Risk	Residual risk rating (i.e. after controls)		Commentary
		December 2020	January 2021	
8	Cyber security	C2	C2	This risk continues to be actively managed
9	Delays in issuing Planning Permissions	A1	A1	An interim air pollution strategy has been agreed with Natural England, however, Council's decision had been called in at the time of this report. Therefore, the risk score remains unaltered for now
10	Climate emergency	B2	B2	The Council continues to develop and consult on its action plan.
11	Accommodation project	C2	C2	This risk has been assigned to the Service Director Strategy, Delivery and Performance who also oversees the accommodation project, which is making good progress

5. Members are now asked to consider the attached updated Corporate Risk Register (Appendix 1) and whether the risks listed are scored appropriately and whether there are any additional risks that should be included.

Resource Implications:

Within the report

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Corporate Risk Register is an important part of the Council's overall governance arrangements and that is why this Committee considers it on a regular basis.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None

Consultation Undertaken:

The Risk Management Group and Leadership Team were involved in the process.

Background Papers:

CIPFA audit committees – practical guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 edition

Risk Management:

If the Corporate Risk Register was not regularly reviewed and updated a risk that threatened the achievement of corporate objectives might either not be managed or be managed inappropriately. In addition, new or emerging risks are not considering which could threatened achievement of the Council's corporate objectives.

Equality Analysis:

The Equality Act 2010 requires that the Public Sector Equality Duty is actively applied in decision-making. This means that the equality information provided to accompany this report is essential reading for all members involved in the consideration of this report. The equality information is provided as appendix 2 to the report.