

Report to the Audit and Governance Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference:

Date of meeting: **30 November
2023**

Portfolio: Finance and Economic Development

Subject: Risk Management

Responsible Officer: Andrew Small (asmall@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Democratic Services Officer: L Kirman (democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To consider the current risk register and refer to Cabinet for approval.

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 and refer to Cabinet for approval.

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:

1. The corporate risk register has been reviewed and updated by the Senior Leadership Team to reflect the current position and is attached at appendix 1.
2. The risk register was subsequently presented to the Corporate Governance Group (which includes the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer in its membership) for review and challenge.
3. Members are asked to consider the attached updated Corporate Risk Register (Appendix 1) to determine whether the risks listed are scored appropriately and whether there are any additional risks that should be included.
4. The table below outlines the direction of travel for each risk since it was updated in June 2023.

| New risk reference | Risk | Residual risk score Jun 2023 | Residual risk score Oct 2023 | Direction of Travel |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| HRA 001 | Increase in demand from homeless increasing financial need | 16 | 12 |  |
| HRA 002 | Building/regeneration programme | 16 | 12 |  |
| ECDEV 001 | Economic Development | 4 | 4 |  |
| CORSER 001 | Data/information breach | 12 | 12 |  |
| CORSER 002 | Lack of and/or inadequate Business Continuity Plans | 16 | 16 |  |
| ICT 001 | Cyber security (previously titled Risk of a cyber security incident) | 16 | 16 |  |
| SUS 001 | Climate Change (previously titled Failure to achieve carbon emissions targets) | 20 | 16 |  |
| CONT 001 | Failure of waste contractor/ service | 16 | 16 |  |
| COMP 001 | Compliance with social housing regulation | 15 | 15 |  |
| FIN 001 | Delivering a Balanced Budget and Sustainable Medium-Term Financial Plan | 10 | 15 |  |
| FIN 002 | Ensuring the continued financial viability of Qualis | 12 | 12 |  |
| FIN 003 | Maintaining and improving VFM (value for money) | 12 | 12 |  |
| PEOPLE 001 | Future proofing the workforce | 12 | 12 |  |

Scrutiny Comments:

Resource Implications:

None

Legal and Governance Implications:

Risk Management is an important part of the Council's overall governance arrangements.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None

Consultation / Scrutiny Undertaken:

The Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Governance Group have reviewed the corporate risk register.

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 which could threaten achievement of the Council's corporate objectives would not be considered.

Equality:

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out and there was no significant impact.