

# **Report to the Audit and Governance Committee**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Report reference: AGC-006-2020/21**  
**Date of meeting: 25 June 2020**

**Portfolio: Leader of the Council**

**Subject: Risk Management**

**Responsible Officer: Andrew Small (01992 564000).**

**Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).**

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## **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 changes to the Corporate risk register.

## **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 has transferred from the Finance Performance Management Cabinet Committee to the Audit and Governance Committee

## **Report:**

1. At the committee level formal responsibility for risk management lies with Audit and Governance Committee to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the Council.
2. CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) audit committees – practical guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 edition states that Audit Committees should 'consider the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements and the control environment, reviewing the risk profile of the organisation and assurances that action is being taken on risk-related issues, including partnerships and collaborations with other organisations'.

## **Corporate Risk Register**

3. The corporate risk register was reviewed by the Council's Officer Risk Management

Group at their meeting of 4 June 2020 where all risks were reviewed, especially in light of Covid-19. This led to a new overarching Covid-19 risk being added and the waste management risk removed, being monitored at the service level instead.

4. The table below outlines the direction of travel for each risk since it was updated for the March Audit and Governance, with a brief commentary supporting each risk. The papers for the March Committee were issued but the meeting was subsequently cancelled due to Covid-19.

No	Risk	Residual risk rating (i.e. after controls)		Commentary
		March 2020	June 2020	
1	Local Plan	<b>B1</b>	<b>B1</b>	Still waiting for adoption of the Local Plan
3	Welfare Reform	<b>A2</b>	<b>A2</b>	Updated in light of Covid-19, which has curtailed the activities of the multi-agency hub in Waltham Abbey as a one stop shop for vulnerable residents
4	Finance Resilience	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	Takes into account the impact of Covid-19 on income and expenditure
5	Economic Development	<b>A2</b>	<b>A1</b>	Rating increased in light of Covid-19 and its impact on local high streets, which is now seen as the priority for Economic Development
6	Data/information	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	Actions being progressed through the officer Information Governance Group
7	Business continuity	<b>B1</b>	<b>B1</b>	The Council responded well to the challenges posed by Covid-19, with little disruption to critical/essential services
10	Housing capital finance	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	Oversight through the House Building Cabinet Committee
12	Waste management	<b>C2</b>	<b>n/a</b>	Contract performing well and there was little disruption to services because of Covid-19. Risk to be monitored at service level
13	Cyber security	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	Risk being actively managed
14	Delays in issuing Planning Permissions	<b>A1</b>	<b>A1</b>	The Council is still in discussions with Natural England
15	Climate emergency	<b>B2</b>	<b>B2</b>	The Council is to develop an action plan with

				short, medium and long term objectives to mitigate this risk
16	Accommodation project	<b>B2</b>	<b>C2</b>	Downgraded following Cabinet's award of the contract at their 1 June 2020 meeting
17	Travel plan	<b>B2</b>	<b>B2</b>	Links with the accommodation project above but still some way off an agreed travel plan
18	Qualis	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	Risk to be reassigned to the recently appointed Section 151 Officer, who will review it with the Chief Operating Officer
19	Covid-19	<b>n/a</b>	<b>B1</b>	New overarching risk to encapsulate internal and external risks to the Council

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.