

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
Meeting:	<b>Corporate Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>
Meeting:	<b>11 July 2022</b>
Title:	<b>Risk Management Update</b>
Ward:	All
An open public meeting	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>	
Appendix 1 – Corporate Risk Register	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Council's risk management arrangements following the Panel meeting in March 2022.
- 1.2 The Council's Corporate Audit Committee has responsibility within its terms of reference for overseeing the risk management framework of the Council.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The Corporate Policy, Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Consider this update report and note the actions taken to further strengthen our risk management arrangements during last three months.
- 2.2 Note and consider the content of the corporate risk register.
- 2.3 Comment on any areas that would like to be considered within the refresh of the Council's Risk Management Strategy to be carried out later in 2022.

## **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 On 28 March the Corporate PDS panel considered a report on the Council's risk management arrangements. The framework for how the Council identifies and manages risk was detailed in the report.
- 3.2 At the March meeting the Panel raised questions on cyber security and adaptation of council functions/facilities to the risks arising from the climate emergency. The Panel requested that the latest version of the Corporate Risk Register be presented to a future meeting (Appendix 1).
- 3.3 As Panel Members will be aware a number of significant geo-political risks have heightened in recent months which are causing a dynamic situation in relation to planning around mitigating actions. These obviously include the economic impacts from recent international events which are spiking energy costs along with significant uncertainty around broader costs bases for goods and services. This scenario could lead to an extended period of stagflation, i.e. high inflation and low growth or

recession which would impact both the Council directly and the community at large. Already reserves set aside to combat some of this risk, i.e. increased cost of energy are being exhausted at a faster pace than expected.

3.4 Answers to these issues are not straightforward and it is important to remember therefore that risk management is a dynamic tool, so changes in risk ratings, actions and assessments can change at very short notice.

3.5 For information a number of risk actions have been progressed following the Panel March meeting.

- Informal Cabinet has received a briefing on the council's risk register and received a copy of the register (3/5/22).
- Cabinet Members were encouraged to hold regular conversations with Directors and consider the content of the both the corporate and directorate risk registers.
- There has been good progress in the review of directorate held risk. The majority of directorate risk registers have been updated and it is envisaged that the remaining documentation will be produced over the coming weeks.
- The Director of Public Health has led the Covid 'look back, look forward' review and this partnership work is being fed into local outbreak management plans. It will be used to aid our preparation for the coming Autumn/Winter pressures.
- The Director of Sustainable Communities has tasked the newly appointed Head of Green Transformation to lead on assess organisational risk and required adaptations to the climate and ecological impacts. This area was identified as an area for improvement by the Panel.
- Further actions undertaken the include the development of our corporate risk dashboard, which now forms part of the council's integrated reporting framework. The dashboard will pull information primarily from the corporate risk register.
- The council's Corporate Management Team has received an update on the council's business continuity arrangements. A number of actions were agreed to strengthen arrangements to mitigate risk to critical services in the event of a major incident.
- The Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum has delivered a number of training exercises to test our partnership response to emergencies. These exercises are focused on the higher residual risks identified in our partnership risk register. Officers have participated in this training.

3.6 Next steps. For the next three months there we will focus on the production of the remaining directorate risk registers. The corporate risk management group steering group will meet in July. The agenda will include

- Consideration of escalating risks and key actions to mitigate risk.
- Subjects for discussion include insurance against a cyber-attack, the emerging community health and social care services model, inflationary pressures (including supply chains) and HR matters such as recruitment, retention and risk of industrial action.
- Outcomes in relation to risk management from the Grant Thornton VFM review.

3.7 Finally the Corporate Audit Committee will receive a report later in 2022 on a review and refresh of the Council's Risk Management Strategy. Whilst comments on the Strategy were positive when presented to the Panel in March the Strategy is due for review and so any comments on areas for improvement or amendment would be appreciated. This also includes comments on guidance on the risk management section for key decision making presented to Councillors.

#### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 The council has statutory duties to plan and prepare for emergencies under the provisions of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

#### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

5.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

#### **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 This report details the council's approach to risk management.

#### **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 Equalities impacts are considered and integrated into risk registers where appropriate.

#### **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1 Risk Management actions can impact directly on our approach to tackling the Climate Emergency, this report is not proposing specific actions and is an update for information only.

#### **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 No options considered this is an update and information item requested by the Panel

#### **10 CONSULTATION**

10.1 The report is an information and update report and has been consulted with the Council's Chief Operating Officer and S151 Officer.

<b>Contact person</b>	Mandy Bishop – Chief Operating Officer Jeff Wring – Director – One West
<b>Background papers</b>	Risk Management – Overview of Arrangements. Report to the Corporate PDS Panel 28 March 2022 (item 84): <a href="https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=635&amp;MIId=5861&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=635&amp;MIId=5861&amp;Ver=4</a>
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