

Report to Audit Committee

15th July 2020

By the Director of Corporate Resources

INFORMATION REPORT



Horsham
District
Council

Not Exempt

Risk Management ~ Quarterly Report

Executive Summary

This report includes an update on the Corporate Risk Register for consideration and provides an update on progress with the quarterly departmental risk register reviews.

Recommendations

That the Committee is recommended to:

- i) Note the contents of this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

As part of good governance, it is important that this document is considered by Members.

Background Papers

Corporate Risk Register

Wards affected: All

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Background Information

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Audit Committee is charged with responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements.
- 1.2 The report provides details of key changes to the Council's Corporate Risk Register, and an update on progress regarding the departmental risk registers (see 3.1 and 3.2 below).

2 Relevant Council Policy

2.1 The Council's Risk Management Policy is detailed in the Council's Risk Management Toolkit. The Council's Risk Management Strategy is a component part of the Policy, and this document sets out to achieve the following objectives:

- Fully integrate risk management into the culture of the Council and its strategic and service planning processes;
- Ensure that the risk management framework is understood and that ownership and accountability for managing risks is clearly assigned;
- Ensure the benefits of risk management are realised through maximising opportunities and minimising threats;
- Ensure consistency throughout the Council in the management of risk.

3 Details

3.1 Corporate Risk Register

The Senior Leadership Team has reviewed the Corporate Risk Register and comments have been updated to reflect the current position for each risk (see Appendix 1).

The Corporate Risk profile is shown in the following heat map which shows the total number of risks in each segment. The red / amber / green zones are in accordance with the Council's risk appetite.

There are six risks which are currently considered to be high and eight medium risks. The high risk area relates to the following:

	CRR02 CRR06 CRR32 CRR33 CRR34 CRR35a	CRR18	CRR01c	CRR01b CRR03 CRR19 CRR35
CRR31		CRR05		
			CRR17	

CRR01b	Funding from Government is less generous than assumed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) from 2021
CRR03	The Council is found to have failed to fulfil its obligations under the Act in the event of a civil emergency.
CRR19	Ongoing reduction in planning fees; reduced car parking income; increased homelessness; and increased housing benefit claims.
CRR35	(i) The Council is unable to deliver statutory front line services to the community due to, for example, staff shortages or unavailability of key officers. (ii) Substantial financial loss to the Council.
CRR01c	Decrease in Rateable Value due to appeals and businesses going under. This may cause the Council to fall below the business rates baseline, resulting in loss of funding.
CRR18	(i) A malicious attacker exploits a known or unknown security weakness to penetrate the Council's ICT systems. (ii) IT not working due to environmental problems: fire, flood, power cut

One risk has now been mitigated and the Senior Leadership Team has confirmed that this should be removed. This is:

CRR31	Unavailability of key officers, inadequate processes (including risk assessments and election project plan) leading to failure (including legal challenge).
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Please see the risk register in Appendix 1 which provides full details of all risks on the “live” register together with details of the control actions and responsible officers.

3.2 Departmental Risk Registers

Departmental risk registers have been reviewed and updated.

4 Outcome of Consultations

4.1 Officers who are responsible for control actions and the Senior Leadership Team have been consulted in updating the Corporate Risk Register.

5 Other Courses of Action Considered but Rejected

5.1 Not applicable.

6 Financial Consequences

6.1 There are no financial consequences.

7 Legal Consequences

7.1 There are no legal consequences.

8 Staffing Consequences

8.1 There are no staffing consequences.

9 Risk Assessment

9.1 The report provides an update on the Council’s corporate risks and how these are being managed by the Senior Leadership Team. See Appendix 1 for the latest version of the Council’s Corporate Risk Register.

10 Other Considerations

10.1 Risk management encompasses all risks within the organisation, including strategic, operational, and project/change risks. This includes consideration of Crime & Disorder; Human Rights; Equality & Diversity; and Sustainability as appropriate.