

Report to Audit Committee

16th December 2020

By the Director of Corporate Resources

INFORMATION REPORT



**Horsham
District
Council**

Partially Exempt under Paragraph 5 of Part 1 of
Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

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 Members understand the key risks facing the Council.

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 and exempt appendix 2).

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.

	CRR02 CRR03 CRR06 CRR32 CRR33 CRR34 CRR35a	CRR18	CRR01c	CRR35 CRR19
		CRR17 CRR36	CRR01b CRR05	

There are six risks which are currently considered to be high and nine medium.

The high risk area relates to the following:

CRR35	COVID-19 (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.
CRR19	Ongoing reduction in planning fees; reduced car parking income; increased homelessness; and increased housing benefit claims; leisure centres; property income; investment income.
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. The level of threat has been raised by the Cabinet Office to amber. (ii) IT not working due to environmental problems: fire, flood, power cut.
CRR01b	Funding from Government is less generous than assumed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) from 2021
CRR05	Officers are either unaware of expected controls or do not comply with control procedures.

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. Two Risks, CRR33 and CRR36 are shown in the exempt appendix 2.

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 as this report is for noting.

7 Legal Consequences

- 7.1 There are no legal consequences as this report is for noting.

8 Staffing Consequences

- 8.1 There are no staffing consequences as this report is for noting.

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 Green issues.