

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



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Report reference:**

**Date of meeting: 15 July 2021**

**Portfolio: Leader of the Council**

**Subject: Risk Management**

**Responsible Officer: Andrew Small (01992 562478).**

**Democratic Services: Laura Kirman (01992 564273)**

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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 new risks for inclusion on the Corporate risk register or changes to the scoring of existing risks.

## **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:**

### Corporate Risk Register

1. The corporate risk register was reviewed by the Council's Officer Risk Management Group at their meeting of 03 June 2021 where all risks were reviewed and challenged and was subsequently presented to the Corporate Governance Group for further review and challenge. The narrative for each risk has been reviewed and, where appropriate, updated to reflect the current situation (appendix 1).

2. The table below outlines the direction of travel for each risk since it was updated for the March 2021 Audit and Governance Committee, with a brief commentary supporting each risk. There have been no changes in residual risk ratings since the last review.

No	Risk	Residual risk rating (i.e. after controls)		Commentary
		March 2021	July 2021	
1	Local Plan	<b>B1</b>	<b>B1</b>	Main modifications have been received from the Inspector and the Council is going out to consultation in July 2021. Adoption of the Local Plan is expected by 31 December 2021.
2	Increase in demand for financial and housing assistance (previously Welfare Reform)	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	This risk has been renamed to reflect the financial strain that Covid-19 has placed on individuals and families which may lead to an increased demand for financial and housing assistance. This will be kept under close review as the situation could change quickly.
3	Financial Resilience	<b>C1</b>	<b>C1</b>	The short and medium-term financial impact of Covid-19 is being managed through a range of methods. The long-term effect of Covid-19 is uncertain and this risk will be redrafted in September 2021 once the situation is clearer.
4	Economic Development	<b>B1</b>	<b>B1</b>	A range of initiatives continue to be undertaken to help the recovery and sustainability of the local economy. A fundamental review of this risk is planned before the next Audit and Governance meeting
5	Data/information	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	There is a planned programme of e-learning starting with cybersecurity which is to be rolled out in summer 2021.
6	Business continuity	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	The Council is to establish an officer task and finish group to support managers with their review of service business continuity plans in the light of internal changes.
7	Housing capital finance	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	A consultant has been appointed to review the Housing Review Account (HRA)
8	Cyber security	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	This risk continues to be actively managed and will be supported through the roll out of eLearning described under risk 5 (data/information)
9	Delays in issuing Planning Permissions	<b>C1</b>	<b>C1</b>	A planning consultant has been engaged to assist with the backlog of approved planning

				applications which have started to be issued.
10	Climate emergency	<b>B2</b>	<b>B2</b>	Work continues on implementing the climate change action plan which was approved by Cabinet in April 2021.
11	Accommodation project	<b>C2</b>	<b>C2</b>	Good progress continues with close down of the Conder building by mid-June. A comms plan is being developed to manage opening messages and re use of Civic Offices.

3. Members are 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 threaten 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.

