

Report to the Audit and Governance Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference:

**Date of meeting: 15 February
2024**

Portfolio: Finance and Economic Development

Subject: Risk Management

Responsible Officer: Andrew Small (asmall@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Democratic Services Officer: L Kirman (democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To consider the current risk register and refer to Cabinet for approval.**

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 and refer to Cabinet for approval.

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:

- The corporate risk register has been reviewed and updated by the Senior Leadership Team in January 2024 to reflect the current position and is attached at appendix 1.
- The risk register was subsequently presented to the Corporate Governance Group (which includes the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Section 151 Officer in its membership) for review and challenge.
- Members are asked to consider the attached updated Corporate Risk Register (Appendix 1) to determine whether the risks listed are scored appropriately and whether there are any additional risks that should be included.
- The table below outlines the direction of travel for each risk since it was last updated in November 2023. No risks have increased; the majority have remained at the same level.

5. CONT001 (Failure of waste contractor/service) has reduced slightly as the contract for the procurement of waste vehicles was approved by Cabinet on 15 January 2024 and a waste licence has been obtained for North Weald Airfield. However, the risk remains red and is being closely monitored.
6. COMP001 (Compliance with social housing regulation) has reduced to amber. Outcomes of the stock condition survey have informed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan which takes into consideration the health & safety and compliance requirements and an HRA Asset Management Strategy (under development) will ensure that structural and compliance needs for the Council's housing are given priority.
7. FIN001 (Delivering a Balanced Budget and Sustainable Medium-Term Financial Plan) has also been reduced to amber. A first draft balanced budget for 2024/25 was completed in December 2023 and there is regular communication of the financial position to Members and senior management.

New risk reference	Risk	Residual risk score Oct 2023	Residual risk score Feb 2024	Direction of Travel
HRA 001	Increase in demand from homeless increasing financial need	12	12	
HRA 002	Building/regeneration programme	12	12	
ECDEV 001	Economic Development	4	4	
CORSER 001	Data/information breach	12	12	
CORSER 002	Lack of and/or inadequate Business Continuity Plans	16	16	
ICT 001	Cyber security (previously titled risk of a cyber security incident)	16	16	
SUS 001	Climate Change (previously titled failure to achieve carbon emissions targets)	16	16	
CONT 001	Failure of waste contractor/ service	16	15	
COMP 001	Compliance with social housing regulation	15	10	
FIN 001	Delivering a Balanced Budget and Sustainable Medium-Term Financial Plan	15	10	
FIN 002	Ensuring the continued financial viability of Qualis	12	12	
FIN 003	Maintaining and improving VFM (value for money)	12	12	
PEOPLE 001	Future proofing the workforce	12	12	

Resource Implications:

None

Legal and Governance Implications:

Risk Management is an important part of the Council's overall governance arrangements.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None

Consultation / Scrutiny Undertaken:

The Senior Leadership Team and Corporate Governance Group have reviewed the corporate risk register.

Background Papers:

None

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 which could threaten achievement of the Council's corporate objectives would not be considered.

Equality:

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out and there was no significant impact.