

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



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Report reference:**

**Date of meeting: 28 March 2024**

**Portfolio: Finance and Economic Development**

**Subject: Risk Management**

**Responsible Officer: Andrew Small ([asmall@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:asmall@eppingforestdc.gov.uk))**

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## **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 March 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 February 2024. A new risk (PLA004) concerning the inability to achieve national Key Performance Indicators in respect of the quality of decisions on major planning applications has been escalated from the Planning Service risk register.

5. No risks have increased, and three risks have decreased as follows.
6. CORSER002 (Lack of and/or inadequate Business Continuity Plans). All business continuity plans are now in place and a business continuity desktop exercise was carried out with the Wider Leadership Team. The plans will be tested to ensure they are effective.
7. SUS001 (Climate change). Energy efficiencies in the construction of the depot and waste operations are being actively explored, and energy efficiency investment included in the operational asset management strategy.
8. CONT001 (Waste Service delivery). Planning permission and the waste licence have been obtained, and the contract for the procurement of waste vehicles has been awarded. The project is subject to weekly oversight.

New risk reference	Risk	Residual risk score Feb 2024	Residual risk score Mar 2024	Direction of Travel
HRA 001	Increase in demand from homeless increasing financial need	12	12	↔
HRA 002	Council house build 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	12	↓
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	12	↓
CONT 001	Waste Service delivery	15	10	↓
COMP 001	Compliance with social housing regulations	10	10	↔
FIN 001	Delivering a Balanced Budget and Sustainable Medium-Term Financial Plan	10	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	↔

New risk reference	Risk	Residual risk score Feb 2024	Residual risk score Mar 2024	Direction of Travel
PLA004	Inability to achieve national KPI's in respect of quality of decisions on major planning applications	N/A	15	N/A

**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.