

Report to the Audit and Governance Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference:

**Date of meeting: 27 February
2025**

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 2025 to reflect the current position and is attached at appendix 1. The impact and likelihood assessments are attached at appendix 2a and 2b respectively.
- 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.

4. The table below outlines the direction of travel for each risk since it was last updated in November 2024.
5. In relation to the remaining risks whilst the scoring has remained static on the Corporate risk register owing to the longevity nature of those risks, the Council is frequently reviewing its controls to ensure they remain effective, along with identifying further mitigating actions to ensure that scores do not need to be increased and over time they are expected to reduce.
6. Risk CONT001 has been closed as this related to high risk of bringing the service in house to TVS from its outsourced provider and this has been successfully completed. The further risks that come from this service will continue to be managed on the Directorate and TVS Risk Registers with oversight at Board level meetings. It is not considered to be a corporate risk any longer.

New risk reference	Risk	Residual risk score Nov 2024	Residual risk score Jan 2025	Direction of Travel
HRA 001	Increase in demand from homeless increasing financial need	12	12	
HRA 002	Council house build programme	12	12	
CORSER 001	Data/information breach	12	12	
CORSER 002	Lack of and/or inadequate Business Continuity Plans	12	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)	12	12	
CONT 001	Waste Service delivery	10	10	CLOSED
COMP 001	Compliance with social housing regulations	10	10	
FIN 001	Delivering a Balanced Budget and Sustainable Medium-Term Financial Plan	15	15	

New risk reference	Risk	Residual risk score Nov 2024	Residual risk score Jan 2025	Direction of Travel
FIN 002	Ensuring the continued financial viability of Qualis	15	15	
FIN 003	Maintaining and improving VFM (value for money)	12	12	
PEOPLE 001	Future proofing the workforce	12	12	
PLA 005	Inability to achieve national KPI's in respect of quality of decisions on major planning applications	15	15	

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:

Risk management is continuing to be embedded across the Council at all levels and underpins the Council's Governance arrangements. The risk management process which includes the Corporate Risk Register is pivotal to ensure Senior Leadership and Members are fully engaged with the most significant risks, including new and emerging risks that the Council is facing.

Equality:

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