

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Finance & Audit Committee
Date: 16 November 2016
Reporting officer: Assistant Director (Corporate Services)
Subject: Mid-Year review of the Corporate Risk Register 2016-17

Purpose and summary of report:

To present Members of the Finance and Audit Committee with a half-year update of the Corporate Risk Register 2016-17 for consideration and review.

Recommendations:

1. Members are requested to:
2. Note the progress made in managing or mitigating each of the items within the Corporate Risk Register 2016-17 at appendix three to this report.
3. Raise any concerns they have regarding progress against the items in the Risk Register, if required, in order for them to be raised at the next Cabinet meeting.
4. Discuss any risks that may need to be removed from or included in the Risk Register when it is reviewed, in order for these to be discussed with Cabinet.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Finance and Audit Committee have a responsibility to *monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the council*. This responsibility helps strengthen the council's risk management arrangements through closer monitoring of the management actions specified in the Corporate Risk Register and enhanced contribution to the development of the annual Corporate Risk Register.

2. Review if the Corporate Risk Register 2016-17

2.1 The current Corporate Risk Register, which was approved by Cabinet in March 2016, sets out four high level corporate risks facing the council. A copy of the register can be found at appendix two to this report. In developing the Corporate Risk register, officers identified a number of actions which would help them in either managing or mitigating the risk to the council. Appendix two sets out:

- 2.1.1 A **description** of the risk that is currently facing the council.
- 2.1.2 A summary of **action to mitigate risk**; this is a summary of actions the council has taken or is in the process of taking in order to mitigate or manage the risk facing the council.
- 2.1.3 A **period table** which shows the risk score at the end of each quarter along with the target setting out the intentions of the council in reducing the risk by the end of the financial year. The risk are based upon a scoring mechanism and any risk scoring 12 or above is classed as 'high risk', as set out in the risk matrix below:

The Risk Matrix

LIKELIHOOD	Very High	5	5	10	15	20
	High	4	4	8	12	16
	Medium	3	3	6	9	12
	Low	2	2	4	6	8
	Very Low	1	1	2	3	4
	High Risk		1	2	3	4
	Medium Risk Low Risk		Negligible	Marginal	Serious	Critical
IMPACT						

2.2 A table showing an update on activity taken by officers to manage or mitigate these risks is attached at appendix three to this report. Members are asked to review the table and discuss if further action is required to manage or mitigate the risks in the Register. Where Members feel appropriate action is not currently being taken, Members are asked to refer these concerns to Cabinet for further consideration.

- 2.3 In approving the 2016-17 register, Cabinet agreed that the risk relating to Management of Universal Credit Implementation should be removed from the Register, but that relevant Officers should continue to monitor the level of risk to the Council from Universal Credit Implementation and report any significant increase in risk to Member of the Finance & Audit Committee.
- 2.4 At this time it is considered that there are no significant risks to be reported to Finance & Audit Committee in relation to Universal Credit. The Service Manager (Revenues & Benefits) reports that the impact of Universal Credit Implementation continues to be low and since May 2015, only 47 Housing Benefit cases have been cancelled as a result of a new claim for Universal Credit. Furthermore, a letter dated 15 September 2016 from the DWP Housing Delivery Division indicates that the current Universal Credit roll-out and migration for working age claimants is not planned to complete until 2022.

3. Development of the 2017-18 Corporate Risk Register

- 3.1 The development of the council's Corporate Risk Register for 2017-18 will commence in December 2016. As in previous years, Members play a key role in the development of the Corporate Risk Register, in particular identifying the strategic risks that the council is likely to face in the coming year.
- 3.2 Members of the Finance & Audit Committee are therefore asked to:
 - Discuss the risks currently documented in the Corporate Risk Register.
 - Propose any risks that should be considered for removal from the Corporate Risk Register as no longer needing to be included.
 - Suggest any other risks that Members feel should be considered for inclusion in the Corporate Risk Register for 2017-18.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 There are no background papers pertaining to this report.

IMPLICATIONS

APPENDIX 1

Legal	There is a specific risk within the Register which highlights the potential issues associated with proposed legislative changes that may affect the council moving forward. Senior Management are being kept up to date with legislative change to ensure that they are able to be fully aware of potential changes proposed to assess how these may affect the council..
Finance and Value for Money	There are no financial or value for money implications arising from the Corporate Risk Register itself. ‘Challenging Financial Position’ is one of the key corporate risks identified within the Corporate Risk register and a specific update against this risk is included within appendix three.
Risk Assessment	The regular review of strategic risks facing the council aids the council in managing risk effectively as a contribution to effective strategic decision-making. It is important that the council’s approach to risk is reviewed on a regular basis by both officers and Members to ensure new risks are identified and action being taken to mitigate existing risks is effective
Equality Impact Assessment	Screening for Equality Impacts
	Question
	a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No
	b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. No
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
Corporate Plan	Good risk management is a key aspect of the council’s overall governance arrangements, which support the delivery of all objectives within the Corporate Business Plan 2015-19 but particularly Strategic Objective Four – Sound and Self Sufficient Council
Crime and Disorder	The risk of Crime and Disorder is considered in the annual review and development of the Corporate Risk Register
Digital and website implications	N/A

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	N/A
--	------------