

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Draft report to Finance & Audit Committee

Date: 10 November 2021

Reporting officer: Assistant Director (Corporate Services)

Subject: Mid-Year Review of the 2021-22 Corporate Risk Register

Purpose and summary of report:

To present Members of the Finance and Audit Committee with mid-year progress information in respect of all risks recorded in the 2021-22 Corporate Risk Register, which can be found at Appendix II of this report.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to:

1. Note the progress made, as set out in Appendix III, in managing or mitigating each risk recorded within the 2021-22 Corporate Risk Register.
2. Voice any concerns regarding the extent of progress that has been made so that if required; these concerns can be raised at the next Cabinet meeting.
3. Start preparing for the development of the 2022-23 Corporate Risk Register, putting forward suggestions for any current risks that should be removed and/or propose any new and emerging risks that should be considered for assessment.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Finance and Audit Committee have a responsibility to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance at Gravesham Borough Council.
- 1.2 The 2021-22 Corporate Risk Register has been approved by Full Council on 13 April 2021 and a copy of the register is attached at Appendix II of this report for information.
- 1.3 During development of the register, the five strategic risks listed below scored above the Council's risk tolerance threshold, therefore these risks and relevant details are recorded in the register.
 - 1) Ongoing financial viability of the council.
 - 2) Changes in national priorities and legislative change.
 - 3) Organisational capacity/resilience.
 - 4) Cyberattack resulting in data breach or, corruption of data.
 - 5) Investment Risk.
- 1.4 Other risks assessed during development were:

- 1) Universal credit.
- 2) Civil risk - major disaster.
- 3) Digital transformation and remote working.
- 4) Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

1.5 These risks generated medium and/or low scores and for this reason they are not included in the register, but instead, they are being managed at service level.

1.6 The purpose of this report is to present Members with relevant information at mid-year, so that they can monitor the actions that have been taken to manage the five strategic risks listed in paragraph 1.3 above.

2. Monitoring of actions.

2.1 A number of actions have been agreed to effectively manage each of the five strategic risks recorded in the 2021-22 register. Appendix III of this report provides the following information:

- 1) The number and title of each risk.
- 2) Background information about each risk.
- 3) The consequences of the risk should it materialise.
- 4) The inherent and residual risk score.
- 5) The actions that have been agreed to manage each risk.
- 6) The lead officer responsible for overseeing the agreed actions.
- 7) An update on the progress of actions carried out, as at mid-year.
- 8) A colour coded quarterly risk assessment, to illustrate the effectiveness of actions that have been carried out, where Red is inadequate; Amber is satisfactory and Green is good.

2.2 Members of the Finance and Audit Committee are requested to review the information presented in Appendix III of this report and determine whether or not the effectiveness of risk management actions is considered satisfactory. Any additional actions that are considered appropriate to further manage or mitigate each risk should be discussed, so that these can be referred to Cabinet for further consideration

3. Development of the 2022-23 Corporate Risk Register

3.1 The development of the council's Corporate Risk Register for 2022-23 will commence in December 2021. Members are therefore requested initiate the process by putting forward suggestions for any new or emerging risks for consideration, as well as recommend which of the existing risks should be carried forward.

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. 'Ongoing financial viability of the Council' 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.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p> <p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offence data? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. No</p> <p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/A</p> <p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk. N/A</p>
Equality Impact Assessment	<p>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</p>

	<p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer.</p> <p>No</p> <p><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></p>
Corporate Plan	The council's arrangement to identify, assess and monitor strategic risks contributes to the delivery of Corporate Plan Objective #3: Progress: drive service improvement and corporate governance.
Crime and Disorder	The risk of Crime and Disorder is considered in the annual review and development of the Corporate Risk Register.
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications to this report.
Digital and website implications	N/A
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	N/A