



Report to Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 18 November 2020

Title: Risk Management Group Update

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Ward(s) affected: N/A

Recommendations: Members are recommended to **note** the report.

Reason for decision: N/A

Executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Risk Management Group (RMG) meetings held on 14 September and 2 November 2020.
- 1.2 The Council's Risk Management Framework and the Terms of Reference for the Risk Management Group were both approved by the Audit and Governance Committee in July 2020.

Content of report

- 1.3 The inaugural meeting of the RMG on 14 September was primarily focussed on a training session to educate the members of the group and ensure that there was a common understanding of the Council's Risk Management Framework including the risk scoring methodology.
- 1.4 The group then considered the Strategic Risk Register (SRR) which is owned by the Corporate Management Team (CMT). The SRR currently holds the 12 most significant risks faced by the council, with each risk owned by a member of CMT. The SRR is reviewed and updated on a monthly basis.
- 1.5 The main themes of the strategic risks are internal and external financial risks, market failure and safeguarding. Each of the risks has a number of actions identified to mitigate the risk, and the actions are monitored and updated on a monthly basis.

- 1.6 The RMG discussed each of the key risks in detail and members suggested that a new risk relating to Climate Change should be considered.
- 1.7 The agenda for the meeting of the RMG on 2 November 2020 included Adults and Health Risk Update, Strategic and Covid-19 Risk Registers, and the Corporate Fraud Risk Register.
- 1.8 Senior Officers from the Adults and Health Directorate attended the meeting to present the key risks which had been escalated to the Adults and Health Board in line with the Risk Escalation Framework.
- 1.9 The key risk themes were as follows:
 - Safeguarding – Systems & processes;
 - Impact of national environment - policy changes, Covid and EU Exit (D-20);
 - Care Market Stability - Provider oversight; financial sustainability;
 - Transformation – Implementation of new ‘strengths-based’ approach; programme delivery and capacity; delivery of AIS (case management system) replacement;
 - Service Quality/Delivery – Partnership working; workforce recruitment & retention; and
 - Finances – Reducing resources; rising costs; increasing demand; strain on existing budgets.
- 1.10 The Strategic and Covid-19 Risks Registers were presented, and it was noted that the risk information was largely similar to that presented in September. All risks had been reviewed and updated by the relevant Corporate Director.
- 1.11 As reported to the previous RMG, the most significant risks relate to contracts/market failure, external financial pressures and safeguarding.
- 1.12 A discussion was held regarding the risk “gap” (the difference between the current score and the target score), and the need to have robust actions in place to close the gap.
- 1.13 The group requested that a more detailed update on the risk of insufficient capacity be brought to the next meeting.
- 1.14 The Fraud Risk Register was presented to the group by the Audit and Fraud Manager. The risk register had been produced following a detailed review of the key fraud risks faced by Buckinghamshire Council, and this will inform the Counter Fraud and Internal Audit Plan activity going forward.
- 1.15 The most significant risks related to council tax, business rates, housing tenancy, procurement and cyber.

Other options considered

1.16 N/A

Legal and financial implications

1.17 None.

Corporate implications

1.18 None.

Consultation and communication

1.19 None.

Next steps and review

Next update to Audit and Governance Committee in January 2021

Background papers

