



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Overview and Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	17 March 2021
OFFICER	Graham Britten, Director of Legal & Governance
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Keith McLean
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Corporate Risk Management
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This report provides an update on the current status of identified corporate risks. Risk registers are maintained at project, departmental and directorate levels. Corporate risks are those that have been escalated from these levels for scrutiny by the Strategic Management Board (SMB) because of their magnitude, proximity or because the treatments and controls require significant development.</p> <p>Officers draw on a range of sources to assist with the identification and evaluation of corporate risks. For example, membership of the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum (TVLRF)'s Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) facilitates active monitoring of a range of risks with the potential for impacts on local communities and services including, at the present time, Coronavirus (COVID-19) and UK - EU post transition period risks.</p> <p>Our involvement with the Local Resilience Forum directly links us into national Government agencies and departments such as Public Health England and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This allows us to share intelligence and information with those who are making decisions at the very highest levels.</p> <p>The TVLRF SCG enables its partners to jointly develop combined responses to civil emergencies, and strategic consequence management. Matters under regular review include Covid-19 outbreak, winter pressures and EU transition. This multi-agency partnership approach helps target our activity directly to the needs of the public.</p> <p>The Corporate Risk Register was last reviewed by the Overview and Audit Committee on 11 November 2020. Since then it has been regularly reviewed by SMB and also by the Performance Management Board (PMB) which scrutinises Directorate and Department risk registers to determine whether risks recorded in these</p>

	<p>require escalation to SMB for potential inclusion in the Corporate Risk Register.</p> <p>Since the Overview and Audit Committee last reviewed the Corporate Risk Register at its 11 November 2020 meeting, SMB noted and agreed the following updates, changes and additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ending of the UK – EU transitional arrangements and their replacement by a trade and cooperation agreement. The nature of this has materially reduced the likelihood of any significant physical disruption to our operations and services (see update at page 8 of Appendix C). It was therefore agreed that the risk revert to Green RAG status; • the emergence of Covid-19 variants, which appear to be more infectious than the original strain, resulting in the implementation of a new national lockdown. Rising infection rates, hospitalisations and mortalities were being experienced in local communities as well as nationally and increased levels of staff absence for Covid related reasons. Staff absence has recently declined from a peak of c. 10% of the workforce, therefore no change to the risk score was agreed but has been kept under close scrutiny in light of subsequent developments. Also, effective partnership working with NHS and CCG colleagues, identified opportunities to offer vaccinations to our staff, primarily those whose role could potentially involve contact with the public, by utilising unused capacity within vaccine batches. This enabled 263 staff, to be offered the COVID vaccine earlier than would otherwise have been expected equating to 54% of our establishment / workforce (see update at page 10 of the Corporate Risk Register at Appendix C). • following review of directorate / department risk registers in relation to the current set of corporate risks at its 4 February meeting, PMB recommended that the pensions related aspects of the staff availability risk be identified and monitored as a separate risk in its own right given the complexity and imminence of the potential impacts arising from this. This recommendation was approved by SMB at its 16 February meeting and a new risk included in the Corporate Risk register at page 11 of Appendix C. <p>The current distribution of corporate risks relative to probability and potential impact is shown at Annex A.</p> <p>Changes to the corporate risk ratings over the last</p>
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	<p>year are shown at Appendix B.</p> <p>Detailed assessments of identified corporate risks are shown in the Corporate Risk Register at Appendix C.</p> <p>The date for the next Overview and Audit Committee review will be confirmed at the 16 June Fire Authority AGM.</p>
ACTION	Decision
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the status report on identified corporate risks at Annex C be reviewed and approved; and, 2. comments be provided to officers for consideration and attention in future updates/reports.
RISK MANAGEMENT	The development, implementation and operation of effective corporate risk management structures, processes and procedures are considered critical to assure continuity of service to the public, compliance with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements and the successful delivery of the Authority's strategic aims, priorities and plans.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	No direct financial implications arising from the presentation of this report. It is envisaged that the further development of the Authority's corporate risk management framework will be undertaken from within agreed budgets.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	None directly arising from this report. Any legal consequences associated with the crystallisation of individual risks are detailed in the Risk Register report at Appendix C.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	The potential to share corporate risk intelligence with neighbouring FRS and other relevant agencies will be considered. BMKFA already participates in the multi-agency Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum which produces a Community Risk Register which is among the sources used to identify potential risks to the Authority.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	Development of the framework does not impact directly on the legal compliance to health and safety, however if risks are not appropriately identified then this may present Health and Safety risks.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	No direct implications from the presentation of this report. However, risks to achieving the Authority's equality, diversity and inclusion objectives or compliance with relevant statutes or regulations are identified assessed and managed via this process and are currently monitored within the People and

	Organisational Development Risk Register.
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>The development of the risk management framework complements the governance framework and business processes as a critical cog in the system of internal control and makes better use of our people resources by giving them clearly defined areas of responsibility.</p> <p>Senior managers and principal officers are key stakeholders in the development of the framework and have an active role in its development at every stage. The lead Member will also be involved in the development of the framework with particular responsibility for determining the reporting arrangements for the Authority.</p> <p>As with all policy frameworks, all employees will be informed of the changes in the process and will receive any training necessary to support their role in the process.</p>
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>The current Corporate Risk Management Policy was approved at the 18 March 2015 Executive Committee: https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2020/03/180315_exec_committee_papers.pdf/</p> <p>CFA Members were last updated on the status of the Authority's Corporate Risks at the 11 November 2020 Overview & Audit Committee.</p>
APPENDICES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appendix A: Distribution of Corporate Risks at 16 February 2021 SMB meeting. 2. Appendix B: 12 Month View of Changes to Corporate Risks 3. Appendix C: Corporate Risk Register Report
TIME REQUIRED	10 Minutes
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Stuart Gowanlock, Corporate Planning Manager sgowanlock@bucksfire.gov.uk