



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Overview and Audit Committee, 21 July 2021

Report title: Corporate Risk Management

Lead Member: Health, Safety and Corporate Risk

Report sponsor: Graham Britten, Director of Legal & Governance

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Action: Decision

Recommendations:

1. That the status on identified corporate risks at Annex C be reviewed and approved.
2. That comments be provided to officers for consideration and attention in future updates/reports.

Executive summary:

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.

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.

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.

The TVLRF SCG enables its partners to jointly develop combined responses to civil emergencies, and strategic consequence management. This multi-agency partnership approach helps target our activity directly to the needs of the public.

The Corporate Risk Register was last reviewed by the Overview and Audit Committee at its 17 March 2021 meeting. Since then, it has been subject to regular review by the Performance Monitoring Board (PMB), at which all the directorate and departmental risk registers are reviewed, and by SMB at its monthly meetings.

Since the last Overview and Audit Committee review:

- No new or existing risks were identified as requiring escalation to the Corporate Risk Register (shown at Appendix 3);
- No changes were recommended to the evaluations, risk scoring or RAG status of the existing corporate risks;
- It was agreed that Lead Members be consulted during the evaluation process for risks falling within their portfolios of responsibility;
- The Funding and savings risk has been updated to reflect the increase in Support staff pay by 2% in line with the final year of the three-year pay deal. The NJC has agreed a pay increase of 1.5% for grey book staff and brigade managers. The Authority had budgeted for 0%, in line with the Government's declared pay pause. This will therefore be an in-year pressure for 2021-22 as well as increasing costs in future years;
- In relation to the EU Transition risk (pages 7 – 8 of Appendix 3), although at Green RAG status, it was agreed that this risk should be retained on the corporate risk register to ascertain whether there are potential effects that are currently being masked by Covid-19 pandemic – these may become more apparent as Covid recovery gathers pace and remaining transition milestones are reached. On the 28 June 2021 the EU adopted a positive data adequacy decision with respect to the UK as detailed at page 8 of Appendix 3;
- In relation to the Covid-19 resurgence risk (pages 9 – 10 of Appendix 3), arrangements have been made for staff to undertake lateral flow tests at home, through the Workplace Collect programme, in association with the Dept of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The Parliamentary decision on whether to move to step four on 19 July will be taken on 12 July. The pandemic management group continue to monitor the risks to staff and will ensure the appropriate controls remain in place as wider social restrictions are lifted; and,
- Regarding the Firefighter Pension Schemes risk (page 11 of Appendix 3), a Home Office 'one-off' allocation of funding has been received to mitigate some of the cost of additional administrative burdens arising from recent Court / Tribunal decisions (£32,301 being the pro rata share of the £3m allocated nationally).

The current distribution of corporate risks relative to probability and potential impact is shown at Appendix 1.

Changes to the corporate risk ratings over the last year are shown at Appendix 2.

Detailed assessments of identified corporate risks are shown in the Corporate Risk Register at Appendix 3.

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.

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.

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.

Within the role description of a Lead Member is a requirement 'to attend the Overview and Audit Committee, at its request, in connection with any issues associated with the portfolio which is the subject of scrutiny'

Privacy and security implications:

None directly arising from the presentation of this report. However, potential risks to privacy and security together with mitigating actions are captured within applicable risk evaluations.

Duty to collaborate:

The potential to share corporate risk intelligence with neighbouring fire and rescue services and other relevant agencies will be considered. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority 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 implications:

Development of the framework does not impact directly on the legal compliance to health and safety, however if risks are not appropriately identified or evaluated then this may present Health and Safety risks.

Environmental implications:

None directly arising from the presentation of this report. However, potential environmental implications together with mitigating actions are captured within applicable risk evaluations.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:

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 HR Risk Register.

Consultation and communication:

Senior managers and principal officers are key stakeholders in the development of the corporate risk management framework and have an active role in this at every stage as well as in ongoing identification, evaluation and monitoring of corporate risks. The Lead Member is also be involved in the development of the framework with particular responsibility for determining the reporting arrangements for the Authority.

Background papers:

The current Corporate Risk Management Policy was approved at the 24th March 2021 Executive Committee:

<https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2021/03/ec-240321-item-5.pdf/>

CFA Members were last updated on the status of the Authority’s Corporate Risks at the 17 March 2021 Overview & Audit Committee:

<https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2021/03/oa-item-9.pdf/>

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Distribution of Corporate Risks as at 6 July 2021.	None
2	12 Month View of Changes to Corporate Risks	None
3	Corporate Risk Register Report	None