



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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**Meeting and date:** Overview and Audit Committee, 20 July 2022

**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.

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**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.

Involvement with the Local Resilience Forum directly links officers into national Government agencies and departments such as the UK Health Security Agency and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This allows the sharing of 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 activity directly to the needs of the public.

The Corporate Risk Register was last reviewed by the Overview and Audit Committee at its 16 March 2022 meeting. Since then, it has been subject to 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. Also, Lead Members have been consulted during the evaluation process for risks falling within their portfolios of responsibility.

Since the last Overview and Audit Committee review, the Corporate Risk Register has been updated to reflect:

- Progress with additional firefighter recruitment and potential risks to existing operational staffing levels arising from London Fire Brigade's firefighter recruitment campaign. Also, conditions in the wider employment market affecting the ability to recruit support service staff, particularly in areas such as ICT and vehicle workshops. A Recruitment Oversight Board was convened to provide strategic direction in relation to staff recruitment, retention and workforce planning.
- The risk of industrial action following the Fire Brigades Union's recommendation to their members that they reject the national employers' proposal for a 2% annual pay increase.
- The redesignation of the 'Funding and Savings' risk to 'financial sustainability', following the Fire Authority's agreement to use the flexibility granted by Government in relation to the Council Tax precept. The risk description has been updated to reference the impact of inflation, in particular energy, fuel and other costs and also the potential for higher than budgeted staff pay awards.
- Measures taken to enhance ICT security given National Cyber Security Centre guidance in relation to heightened risks in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The relaxation of control measures in relation to Covid in line with Government guidance.
- Ongoing monitoring of staffing and financial risks associated with Court rulings in relation to firefighter pension schemes.

No changes to the impact and probability scores or consequent RAG status' have been made since the last Overview and Audit Committee meeting in March.

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.

The next Overview and Audit Committee review is scheduled for 9 November 2022, preceded by review at the 18 October 2022 SMB meeting.

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### **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 3.

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 for Health, Safety and Corporate Risk 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 [16 March 2022](#) Overview & Audit Committee.

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Distribution of Corporate Risks as at 6 July 2022.	None
2	12 Month View of Changes to Corporate Risks	None
3	Corporate Risk Register Report	None