



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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**Meeting and date:** Overview and Audit Committee, 9 November 2022

**Report title:** Corporate Risk Management

**Lead Member:** Cllr Keith McLean, Health, Safety and Corporate Risk

**Report sponsor:** Graham Britten, Director of Legal & Governance

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**Action:** Decision

**Recommendations:**

1. That the status of 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 20 July 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:

- In relation to the staff availability risk, the latest position regarding the potential for industrial action following the FBU's decision to ballot members on the revised five per cent pay offer from the national employer representatives;
- The forecast impact of inflationary pressures, particularly in relation to energy costs and the annual firefighter pay settlement, this has resulted in the financial sustainability risk score being increased to 4x4=16, reverting it to red RAG status
- The introduction of the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill (DPDI Bill) into Parliament on 18 July 2022. This was the next step in the, then, government's much-publicised plans to reform the UK data protection regime following Brexit. In the government's response to the September 2021 consultation ('Data: A New Direction') it said it intended 'to create an ambitious, pro-growth and innovation-friendly data protection regime that underpins the trustworthy use of data'. The DPDI Bill proposes substantial amendments to existing UK data protection legislation. It contains amendments to the GDPR aimed at reducing the compliance burden on organisations and to create more flexibility. The second reading of the DPDI Bill did not take place on 5 September 2022 as scheduled, with a new date not yet published. The potential effects of the DPDI Bill on the Authority if it were to be enacted in substantially the same form have yet to be fully evaluated.
- Regarding the McCloud / Sargeant pensions risk, the provision of circa £250k made in the 2020-21 financial year to cover potential awards for 'injury to feelings' claims, is now available to use for other purposes, as these costs will be met by Central Government and the funds provided to fire and rescue authorities before any payments are made to FBU claimants.
- Inclusion of the Climate Change risk specified at pages 11-12 of the Corporate Risk Register (Appendix 3).

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 15 March 2023, preceded by review at the 21 February 2023 SMB meeting.

**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. Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken on strategies, change, procedures and projects.

**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 24 March 2021 Executive Committee:

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

Fire Authority Members were last updated on the status of the Authority's Corporate Risks at the [20 July 2022 Overview & Audit Committee](#).

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Distribution of Corporate Risks as at 18 October 2022.	None
2	12 Month View of Changes to Corporate Risks	None
3	Corporate Risk Register Report	None