

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
 AUDIT COMMITTEE – 28 JUNE 2023  
 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (FINANCE & TRANSFORMATION)

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report brings to the committee the current strategic risks facing the Council, as determined by Strategic Leadership Team and the operational risks with a score of over 50.
- 1.2 These reflect the assessments of risk as at 31 March 2023.
- 1.3 Narrative against these risks provide updates on the risk environment, activities over the previous quarter (January to March 2023), and against upcoming activities as appropriate.

**2 Recommendation**

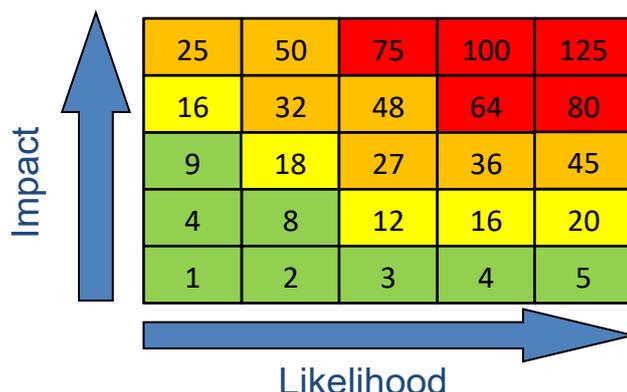
- 2.1 Members are asked to:
  - Note the attached current Risk Management Update;
  - Note comments and actions in respect of the strategic and top operational risks.

**3 Explanation**

- 3.1 Appendix A shows the strategic risk register. Each strategic risk has ownership by a Corporate Director and an Executive Member. A summary of the assessed strategic risks is below:

Risk Level	Green	Yellow	Amber	Red	Total
Number	0	1	12	4	17

- 3.2 Appendix B shows the top risks which have a score of over 50, from the operational risk register. There are 2 operational risks assessed at this level.
- 3.3 The risk scoring table is as follows and shows the impact<sup>2</sup> x likelihood methodology we now work to:



- 3.4 A new risk policy, strategy and framework has been finalised, and the risk register for 2023/24 has been updated to reflect the new policy. This is the last report under the old framework, and the quarter 1 risk reports to be presented at the next meeting, will be under the new framework.

#### **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that “[a] relevant authority must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which [among other matters] includes effective arrangements for the management of risk.”

#### **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are none directly arising from this report, though of course any risk event may have its own financial consequences.

#### **6 Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 Failing to maintain adequate and effective arrangements for the management of risk may lead to risk events not being foreseen, an inadequate response to a risk event occurring and a failure to exploit opportunities.

#### **7 Security and Terrorism Implications**

- 7.1 There are none directly arising from this report, though of course any risk event may have security and terrorism implications.

#### **8 Procurement Implications**

- 8.1 There are none directly arising from this report, though of course any risk event may have procurement implications.

#### **9 Climate Change Implications**

- 9.1 There are none directly arising from this report, though of course any risk event may have climate change implications.

#### **10 Health and Wellbeing Implications**

- 10.1 There are none directly arising from this report, though of course any risk event may have health and safety implications.

#### **11 Communication and Engagement Implications**

- 11.1 There are none directly arising from this report, though of course any risk event may have communication and engagement implications.

#### **12 Link to Corporate Priorities**

- 12.1 The subject of this report supports all council priorities in that the effective management of risk is essential to the achievement of objectives.

#### **13 Equality and Diversity**

- 13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report as it relates purely to monitoring information.

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Date: 20 June 2023

Appendices:

Appendix A – Strategic Risk Register – All Risks

Appendix B – Operational and Strategic Risk Register – Top Risks (50+ score)