

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

28 September 2023

<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	Corporate Risk Management Report
<u>Submitted by:</u>	Corporate Leadership Team
<u>Portfolio:</u>	Corporate and Service Improvement, People and Partnerships
<u>Ward(s) affected:</u>	All

Purpose of the Report

To update Members on the current position in respect of risk management controls and identified corporate risks.

Recommendation

That the Audit & Standards Committee:-

1. **Note that there are currently 14 risks that are more than 6 months overdue for a review up to end of Q1 2023/24.**
2. **Note that there have been 5 risk level increases.**
3. **Note no movement on the Corporate Risk Register.**
4. **Advise officers of any individual risk profiles that the Committee would like to scrutinise in more details at its next meeting**
5. **Note that whilst the likelihood of a risk materialising may be mitigated, the likely impacts may not change**

Reason

To comply with Audit and Risk Management Strategy requirements to report to committee: risk reviews that are more than 6 months overdue; the Corporate Risk Register; and any risks that have been increased in rating to a medium D or high E, or are new risks.

Background

- 1.1 The Council's Risk Management Strategy (RMS) sets out how it identifies, records, manages and reports on risk. It uses the GRACE software (Governance Risk and Control Environment) to monitor and manage all of its risks by creating individual risk profiles which rank risk based on likely occurrence and impact, after applying relevant mitigation measures. The system allows for the creation and monitoring of mitigation action plans and the assignment of risk owners.
- 1.2 The system allows risks to be managed in this way at service and directorate level and, where warranted, corporately through the Corporate Leadership Team and this committee. The RMS describes how risks are escalated and reported through that hierarchy depending on the

nature of the risk, and in light of any delays in reviewing risk profiles or applying mitigation measures.

- 1.3 The Council currently reviews its high (red) risks at least monthly and its medium (amber) risks at least quarterly. The RMS and good audit practice requires that amber and red risks are reported to this committee where escalation is required, along with any risk profiles that are overdue for review by 6 months or more. This set of measures was last reported to this Committee on 17 July 2023.
- 1.4 GRACE automatically prompts Risk Owners to review their risk profiles at the required intervals, and will escalate overdue reviews. The review process involves the Council's Risk Champion challenging Risk Owners in respect of the controls, further actions, ratings and emerging risks related to their risk profiles. They are also challenged on the reasons for inclusion or non-inclusion of risks and amendments made to profiles. The Risk Champion has a direct reporting line to the Monitoring Officer and into the Corporate Leadership Team.
- 1.5 Project specific risks are managed to a high level in project specific risk registers, and are reviewed in accordance with the RMS at least monthly. Any specific projects can, where required, also have their risks monitored, maintained and managed in the Project Board meetings, but remain subject to the escalation requirements in the RMS.

Issues

- 2.1 There are currently 14 risk reviews 6 months overdue up to the end of Q1 2023/24.
- 2.2 During the last quarter (Q1), 5 risks rose in priority. There are in relation to the following:
 - 2.2.1 The risk of Bribery and Corruption (from a Medium C to Medium D);
 - 2.2.2 Increased Energy usage at J2 (Low A to Medium D);
 - 2.2.3 Arson/Fire at the Sky Building (Low B to Medium D);
 - 2.2.4 Crime or incident not spotted or recorded (Medium C to Medium D)
 - 2.2.5 Achieving vacant possession of York Place (medium C to High E)
- 2.3 The rest of the Corporate Risk Register has been reviewed, and no other significant changes have been made.

Proposal

- 3.1 That Members note that there are currently 14 risks more than 6 months overdue for a review up to end of Q1 2023/24.
- 3.2 That Members note that there have been 5 risk level increases to either a Medium D or a High E.
- 3.3 That Members note no other movement or change on the Corporate Risk Register.
- 3.4 That Members advise officers of any individual risk profiles that the Committee would like to scrutinise in more details at its next meeting.
- 3.5 Note that whilst the likelihood of a risk materialising may be mitigated, the likely impacts may not change.

4. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 4.1 To comply with Audit and Risk Management Strategy requirements to report to committee: risk reviews that are more than 6 months overdue; the Corporate Risk Register; and any risks that have been increased in rating to a medium D or high E, or are new risks.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 N/A. Reporting is undertaken in accordance with the RMS.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 It is considered that the RMS and the procedures it sets out, including the escalation of risks and reporting to this committee satisfies the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 which state that:

*“The relevant body **is** responsible for ensuring that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives; ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective, and includes effective arrangements for the management of risk”.*

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 There are no differential equality impact issues in relation to this report.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 There are no resource implications in respect of the management and reporting of risk, outside of usual establishment provision for the costs of delivering that service. Finance and resource implications arising from particular risks are identified and managed as part of the risk profile in question.

9. **Major Risks**

- 9.1 Inadequate resource and/or expertise to comply with the processes in the RMS leaves the council unable to appropriately identify and manage a potentially significant wide range of risks.
- 9.2 That could lead to a wide range of organisational governance and service or project delivery failures. Impacts could be profound in financial and health and wellbeing terms for the organisation, its employees and partners and the people and organisations it delivers services to. It would mean the Council is unable to comply with the legal requirements set out above in respect of the management of risk.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Implications**

- 10.1 Good risk management is a key part of the overall delivery of the Council’s four corporate priorities of; Local Services that Work for Local People, Growing our People and Places, a Healthy, Active and Safe Borough, a Town Centre for all. Officers assess sustainability and climate change implications as part of their local services.



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 N/A.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Previous Minutes from Committee meeting held on 17 July 2023.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 N/A.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None.