

SIGNED OFF BY	Head of Corporate Policy
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TO	Audit Committee Executive
DATE	Audit Committee: 10 May 2021 Executive: 24 June 2021
EXECUTIVE MEMBER	Councillor Victor Lewanski

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	N
WARDS AFFECTED	(All Wards);

SUBJECT	Risk management - Q4 2020/21
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RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>That the Audit Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note the Q4 update on Risk Management provided by the report and associated annexes and make any observations to the Executive. (ii) Note the recommended closure of strategic risk on ‘Partner Public Sector Funding Decisions’ (SR4) as detailed in the report and in Annex 2. <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note the Q4 update on risk management provided by the report and associated annexes (ii) Approve the closure of the strategic risk on ‘Partner Public Sector Funding Decisions’ (SR4) as detailed in the report and in Annex 2.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
The Audit Committee and Executive’s constitutional responsibilities require them to receive regular updates on risk management.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on risk management in Q4 of 2020/21. Additional detail is provided in the report as well as the supporting associated annexes.

The Audit Committee and the Executive have the authority to approve their respective recommendations.

STATUTORY POWERS

1. The Council holds various statutory responsibilities for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and that public money is safeguarded, accounted for, and is used economically and effectively.
2. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act (1999) to put in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs.
3. The discharge of this responsibility includes arrangements for managing risk.
4. The Council's Code of Corporate Governance outlines these core governance principles; compliance with the code is reported each year via the Annual Governance Statement

BACKGROUND

5. Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has a proactive approach to risk management. It is an integral part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements and is built into management processes.
6. The Council operates a two-tiered risk management process to address the dynamic and interdependent nature of risk categorisation. The risk categories are strategic and operational Risks.
7. Strategic risks are defined as those risks that have an impact on the medium and long term ambitions and priorities of the Council as set out in the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
8. Members of the Management Team and Executive Members have shared responsibility for strategic risks. It is the responsibility of the Executive to formally endorse any new risks for inclusion on the strategic risk register.
9. Operational risks are risks that are encountered in the course of the day-to-day delivery of services. However, if an operational risk cannot be fully managed within the service or it has a wider organisational impact then it will be considered for inclusion in the operational risk register by the Council's Corporate Governance Group. Heads of Service have responsibility for operational risks.

KEY INFORMATION

Risk Management Reporting

10. The Council's risk registers have been updated at the end of Q4, working alongside Directors and Heads of Service.

11. The full risk registers are made available to all members via the ModernGov document library. Risk registers from previous years are available on the eMembers portal.
12. Each quarter the Audit Committee and Executive receives an update on risk management. As per the Council's risk management methodology this report provides an update on all strategic risks as well as any red rated operational risks.
13. The update – available at annex 1 – includes the current risk rating, the direction of travel of the risk (with reference to its score) as well as a summary of the key updates in the quarter.

Risk Ratings

14. The Council's risk management strategy and methodology utilises the following risk ratings:

Rating	Action
Red	Where management should focus attention. Immediate actions should be identified and plans put in place to reduce risk as a priority.
Amber	Where management should ensure that contingency plans are in place. These may require immediate action and will require monitoring for any changes in the risk or controls. These will be a key area of assurance focus.
Yellow	These should have basic mechanisms in place as part of the normal course of management.
Green	Where risk is minimal and does not demand specific attention but should be kept under review.

Q4 2020/21 Risk Management Update

15. An update on the Council's strategic risks for Q4 2020/21 is provided in annex 1.
16. In Q4 there was one red rated related operational risk, the detail of which is set out in the part 2 exempt annex 3.
17. In Q4 one strategic risk was identified for closure (SR4 – Partner Public Sector Funding Decisions), the detail of which is available in annex 2.
18. At the meeting of the Audit Committee on 11 March 2021 where Q3 risk management was considered, the Committee questioned whether disposals of housing stock by registered providers of social housing to achieve carbon neutrality targets represented a strategic risk. This has been investigated. The number of likely disposals in Reigate and Banstead is low when projected over the anticipated period of 25-30 years, however, and so it is not considered a strategic risk at this time.
19. In Q4 no new strategic risks were identified.

OPTIONS

20. The Audit Committee has two options:

21. Option 1: note this report and the associated annexes and make no observations to the Executive.
22. Option 2: note this report and associated annexes and make any observations to the Executive.
23. The Executive has two options:
24. Option 1: note this report and endorse the closure of the strategic risk on Partner Public Sector Funding Decisions (SR4). This is the recommended option.
25. Option 2: note this report and not endorse the closure of the strategic risk on Partner Public Sector Funding Decisions (SR4).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

26. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

27. Financial risks are taken into account when preparing the Medium Term Financial Plan. Capital Investment Strategy, Revenue Budget, and Capital Programme each year.
28. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

29. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS

30. There are no communications implications arising from this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

31. The Council's risk registers inform the development of the annual risk based internal audit plan.
32. The Council's approach to managing risk is core component of the Code of Corporate Governance.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

33. There are no other implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

34. The contents of this report and the associated Annexes have been considered by the Council's Corporate Governance Group.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

35. The Council's risk management strategy and methodology provides additional information on how the Council manages risk.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None