TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 December 2021
Subject:	Corporate Risk Register
Report of:	Head of Corporate Services
Corporate Lead:	Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Corporate Governance
Number of Appendices:	1

Executive Summary:

The Council has a risk management framework and this is set out in the Council's approved Risk Management Strategy. Risk management is an intrinsic element of good, effective management and should not be seen as a 'bolt on'. The strategy sets out the risk management approach around the identification, analysis, prioritisation and management of risk. A key element of the strategy is capturing key corporate risks through a Corporate Risk Register. This register is presented at each Audit and Governance Committee. The latest register can be found at Appendix 1.

Recommendation:

To CONSIDER the risks contained within the Corporate Risk Register and assurance that the risks are being effectively managed.

Reasons for Recommendation:

Risk management is an integral part of the Council's overall governance framework. It is within the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Governance Committee to gain assurance that key risks are effectively managed.

Resource Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management Implications:

If the Council does not have in place a Corporate Risk Register then it cannot demonstrate that corporate risks are formally considered, scored and managed.

Performance Management Follow-up:
The Corporate Risk Register is considered at each Audit and Governance Committee and prior to this by Corporate Management Team.

Environmental Implications:
None.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 The Council's Risk Management Strategy formalises the Council's risk management arrangements and sets out the risk management approach around the identification, analysis, prioritisation and management of risk. A key element of the strategy is the maintenance of a Corporate Risk Register that captures the Council's key corporate risks. The register is a high level document to record in a proportionate manner the key risks facing the Council, their risk score and high level management controls that are in place to manage individual risks. The scoring matrix within the strategy provides guidance on scoring those risks. The latest register can be found at Appendix 1.

2.0 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

2.1 The register is a useful tool to demonstrate in a concise manner that corporate risks are being considered and managed. The headings within the register and the scoring of risk are all detailed within the risk management strategy. Succinctly, the scoring is based around three stages:

- Gross risk score (the inherent risk without any mitigating controls in place).

- Current risk score (the assessed risk after the application of controls).

- Target risk score (proposed risk score by applying future controls, if the current risk score is deemed to be too high).

It should be noted that the main focus should be on the risk description and the mitigating controls rather than to challenge the risk scores as these are only indicative. It is the assurance on the management of the controls which is important.

2.2 The format of the register is one which is commonly used throughout local government. There is no statutory requirement to have a register in place but is seen as good practice. It also helps the Audit and Governance Committee fulfil its risk management responsibilities. Internal audit support the Audit and Governance Committee in gaining assurance that the risks are being effectively managed. Days are allocated within the Internal Audit Work Plan to review the register and give assurance to the Committee around such things as:

- Is the register complete? Are there any risks missing?

- The controls detailed in the register – are they actually in place and working effectively?

- Future actions – is there assurance they will be implemented within appropriate timescales?

Once the Internal Audit team is fully operational again after redeployment in relation to COVID-19, it will resume the audit of these risks as part of its work programme.

2.3 The risk register template includes a 'comments' box below each risk. This provides opportunity for each risk owner to provide an update on the status of that risk. For example, if the risk score has been downgraded as a result of effective control action being implemented or, alternatively, if the risk score has increased. An increase could happen through a number of scenarios, for example if an internal audit concluded that a mitigating control is not effective.

2.4 The risk register is presented at Corporate Management Team on a regular basis and further reviewed by the Corporate Governance Group; this group is chaired by the Borough Solicitor.

3.0   KEY UPDATES ON THE REGISTER

3.1 Summarised below are key updates arising since the register was last presented at Committee on 15 September 2021.

Risk identified	Key update arising
Ref 1. – Financial sustainability	The Government's Spending Review announcement has yet to provide clarity on what the funding covers or how it will be distributed. In addition, the review made no announcement on a number of funding streams including New Homes Bonus and business rates. The Council will need to wait for the provisional local government settlement, sometime in December, for further clarity.
Ref 3. – ICT network security	Key work is programmed to build on the robustness of our security measures. This includes cyber security awareness training, gaining Cyber Essentials accreditation, implementation of a new cyber post within the ICT team. This is in addition to the general delivery of security infrastructure work within the ICT strategy.
Ref 6. – Emergency planning	The Sandbag Policy is due for consideration by the Executive Committee in January 2022.
Ref 8. – Safeguarding	A positive assessment of the Council's safeguarding arrangements has been concluded.
Ref 13. – Ashchurch Bridge Project	The outcome of the judicial review is awaited.
Ref 15. – Climate Change	Funding has been secured to provide a solar canopy in the rear car park. In addition, a new application for funding to replace the heating system has been submitted.
Ref. 17 – Waste transfer station	The decision has been moved to the January 2022 Planning Committee at Gloucestershire County Council. This has allowed Tewkesbury Borough Council to jointly commission a further piece of work with Cheltenham Borough Council demonstrating that there are no viable alternative sites within a sensible geographic area.

4.0   OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1   None.

5.0   CONSULTATION

5.1   None.

6.0   RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

6.1   Risk Management Strategy.

7.0   RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

7.1   None.

8.0   RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

8.1   None.

9.0   SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

9.1   None.

10.0   IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

10.1   Mitigation of risk will help the Council achieve its objectives.

11.0   RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

11.1   None.

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Corporate Risk Register (August 2021)