TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 July 2023
Subject:	Corporate Risk Register
Report of:	Head of Audit and Governance
Head of Service/Director:	Director: Corporate Resources
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Corporate Governance
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

The Council has a risk management framework and this is set out in the Council's 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.

Financial Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):

None arising directly from this report.

Safeguarding Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Impact on the Customer:

None arising directly from this report other than to give assurance to stakeholders that risks are being effectively managed.

1.0   INTRODUCTION

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 supports 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?

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.

3.0 KEY UPDATES ON THE REGISTER

Summarised below are key updates arising since the register was last presented at Committee on 22 March 2023.

Risk identified	Key update
Ref 4 – General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	Following the recent management restructure an Audit and Governance Team has been created, this will help provide additional resilience to the management of governance issues, such as GDPR. There has also been successful recruitment to the Information Governance Officer role – this is particularly positive as it is a 'niche' role. The successful candidate will start in September 2023. As part of the induction programme, Members received an introduction to GDPR, FOI Act and cyber security. The Data Protection Policy was approved at Executive Committee in June 2023.
Ref 6 &9 – asset management and climate change	The Council has been awarded £708,000 of funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme to support the replacement of gas boilers with an air source system at the Council offices; however, the project will also require a substantial funding allocation form the Council's own resources to enable the delivery of the new heat system. A report will be taken to Council on 25 July 2023.
Ref 7 – Garden Town	The programme is currently paused pending the findings of an external gateway review on the management of the programme.
Ref 14 – DEFRA consultation on waste services	This is a new risk added following discussion at the last Audit and Governance Committee. If central government impose a change to our waste collection methodology the impact could be significant both in terms of the financial impact of purchasing new fleet, containers etc but also the disruption to residents.

3.0 CONSULTATION

3.1 None

4.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS

4.1 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.

5.0 MONITORING

5.1 The risk register is presented at Leadership Team on a regular basis and further reviewed by the Corporate Governance Group.

6.0   RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

6.1   A number of the risks relate directly to priorities within the Council Plan and others, such as governance related risks underly the delivery of those priorities.

Background Papers: Previous update was presented at Audit and Governance Committee on 22 March 2023.

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Corporate Risk Register