

 <p>Brent</p>	<p>Audit Committee 7 January 2015</p> <p>Report from the Chief Finance Officer</p>
<p>For Information</p>	<p>Wards affected: All</p>
<p>Corporate Risk Register</p>	

1. Summary

1.1 This report presents the council's current Corporate Risk Register.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Audit Committee to review and note the contents of the Council's updated Corporate Risk Register.

3. Detail

3.1 The risk register attached at appendix 1 sets out the council's strategic and key operational risks.

3.2 Strategic Directors are required to maintain an operational risk register and review this periodically with their Departmental Management Teams. A new Risk Management Group has been established, chaired by the Chief Finance Officer. The purpose of this group is to promote best practice in risk management, review and challenge the content of the strategic risk register and to review key issues in respect of the operational risk registers.

3.3 The Audit Committee last reviewed the register at its meeting on 29th September 2014. Since that meeting, the risk management group has met on two occasions. The register, attached at appendix 1, has undergone some refinement since the last meeting and members should note the following changes:

Strategic Risk – An overarching risk relating to the draft proposed budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17 has been added to the strategic register. This covers all

council departments and all will have individual risks on their own operational registers. The financial challenge presents significant risks to the council in terms of continued delivery of services and managing change.

Operational Risks

Adult Social Care – Risks concerning the failure to engage with key partners leading to additional cost pressures and the risk of fraud in direct payments have been removed from the corporate register due to a residual score of 12 or less.

Assistant Chief Executives Department: Addition of a number of new risks as set out below:

- Cuts to ACE dept budgets, estimated at between 20-40%, will affect all corporate teams and will have a strategic and operational impact on capacity to deliver.
- Failure to achieve deadline for resolving stage 1 and stage 2 corporate complaints. Lack of joined up working between Council and key partners as a result of an ineffective Partners for Brent.
- There is a risk that the delay in identifying new OC projects, will limit that amount of savings that can be delivered in 2015/16 through the OC Programme
- There is a risk a large number of new OC projects will be identified through departmental budget savings process and there will be insufficient internal project management resource to manage these new projects

Regeneration and Growth: Addition of a number of new risks as set out below:

- Inability to deliver new affordable housing in accordance with housing strategy targets
- Infill development delayed and limited availability of further sites for next phase development identified
- Reduction in number of Empty Property Grant properties brought into use
- Accelerated rollout of Universal Credit
- Political pressure from local community/ groups affect ability to deliver the new Willesden Green Cultural Centre to budget and time
- Assaults on staff/customers due to the open nature of the Civic Centre Foyer
- Building failures – specifically the Civic Centre.
- Inability to meet government set Carbon & Efficiency savings targets with funding/fines attached
- Current economic situation leading to Increased debt arising from unpaid Invoices
- Income decline due to loss of business share
- Council Tax and NNDR in year collection reduces

Environment and Neighbourhood:

- Removal of risk relating to failure of public realm contract.
- Addition of risk of service difficulties; reputational harm or failure during organisational change

Children and Young People:

- No updates

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2011 section 4(1) require the council to “ensure that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body’s functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.”
- 4.2 Further section 5 (1) (4) (i) requires that the Director of Finance and Corporate Services determines accounting control systems which include adequate measures to ensure that risk is appropriately managed.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 None

6. Diversity Implications

- 6.1 None

7. Contact Officer Details

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