



**Audit and Standards Advisory  
Committee**  
8 December 2020

**Report from the Director of Legal,  
HR, Audit and Investigations**

**Corporate Risk Register**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Appendix A: Corporate Risk Register
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Michael Bradley, Head of Audit and Investigations, <a href="mailto:Michael.bradley@brent.gov.uk">Michael.bradley@brent.gov.uk</a> Tel: 07920 581620

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report provides an update on the Council's Risk Management position and includes an updated Corporate Risk Register. Each of the departmental management teams has carried out a review and re-assessment of their risk registers.

**2.0 Recommendations for Committee**

2.1 Committee to note the current Corporate Risk Register and heat map included at Appendix A to this report.

**3.0 Detail**

**3.1 Risk Management Strategy**

3.2 A review of arrangements undertaken as part of the 2019 refresh exercise established that risk is well understood across all levels of management.

3.3 The Corporate Risk Register was initially developed following a series of workshops with departmental management teams. Based on recently revised

departmental risk registers, the Corporate Risk Register has been updated and is presented at Appendix A.

3.4 There are inherent risks which the Council faces which are owned and monitored at Departmental level. These have previously been identified as:

- Safeguarding (Children and Adults);
- Business Continuity;
- Information Governance;
- Legislative Compliance;
- Fraud and Corruption;
- Financial Stability, and
- Health and Safety.

These risks will be incorporated into the Corporate Risk Register when net or mitigated risk ratings are deemed to be of a level that exceed the appropriate tolerance. During the course of the workshops in 2018/19 and in subsequent iterations of departmental risk assessments, none of these inherent high risks were rated as high risk.

3.5 The main changes to the risk register following this review are:

- Removal of the risks London Borough of Culture, Universal Credit and Recruitment, Retention and Training;
- Addition of Financial pressures arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Pressures have been identified for 2020/21 with a possible funding gap of £12.3m;
- Addition of Workforce Resilience risk. Due to the pressures of the Covid pandemic, staff welfare and ability to continue to deliver at the highest levels may be adversely effected;
- Addition of shortfall in the Housing Revenue Account risk. The increase in financial hardship from Covid-19, combined with changes to welfare and benefits provision may result in non-payment;
- Addition of a 'Demand for Services' risk. The level of demand for services grows beyond services' ability to manage effectively growth in areas such as LAC, Care Leavers and SEND, and
- Addition of Cyber Attacks risk. If successful this would potentially impact all services, to the extent that they would be unable to provide a service in the first instance.

3.6 Although there is no new risk identified specifically for the Covid-19 pandemic, this event has created financial and other risks which are reflected in a number of the risks represented.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 **There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. Departments assess and manage risks within existing budgets.**

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 All Local Authorities are required to have in place arrangements for managing risks, as stated in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015:

“A relevant authority must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which:

(a) facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives;

(b) ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective, and

(c) includes effective arrangements for the management of risk.”

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

6.1 None

#### **7.0 Proposed Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

7.1 This report and the corporate register will be discussed at the Audit and Standards Advisory Committee.

**Report sign off:**

**Debra Norman**

Director of Legal, HR, Audit and Investigations