

Appendices:

1. Governance Report
2. Q3 19/20 Corporate risk register
3. Temporary workers register



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Governance Report Update
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Audit Committee Meeting Date: 6th February 2020

Policy Document: Governance Report

Services: Chief Finance Officer

Accountable Cabinet Member: Jonathan Nunn - Leader

1. Purpose

1.1 This report presents the quarterly Governance Report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee review, comment and request additional information be included or, if not required, items are omitted for future quarterly Governance Reports.

2.2 That the Committee agree that the Governance report continue to be presented quarterly with appendices where relevant.

3. Issues of note

3.1 Report Background

Previously, the Audit Committee was presented with the Governance Action plan that was introduced in 2016. This has now been completed and it has been identified that a quarterly governance statement is required to give assurance of controls and process improvements within NBC.

3.2 Issues

Q3 Corporate Risk register

Risk management is a key priority for the Council. Critical to the development of better risk management is the development of a tighter culture of risk identification, assessment and mitigation at all levels of the Council, including at the corporate level, with proper and regular updates to assessments of potential risks.

3.2.1 20 risks were stated on the corporate risk register as of December 2019. Of these 11% are rated red, 84% amber and 5% rated green.

3.2.2 Two new risks were identified and added in Q3:

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1. Climate change
2. The impact of the loss of LGSS services.

3.2.3 There has been no movement in the risk ratings from Q2 to Q3.

3.2.4 The corporate risk register will be updated for Q4 2019/20 during March 2020. Any significant changes will be reported to Cabinet.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are no policy changes as a result of this report.

4.1.2 There may be various impacts and changes to current policies. The governance report will assure Audit Committee that policies and procedures are being strengthened to contribute to building a strong control environment at the Council.

4.1.3 Compliance with policies will be monitored through the Internal Control reviews and reported upon through the governance structure and to the Audit Committee starting in the new financial year.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The Governance team are fully resourced to cover the areas reported within the Governance report. Financial implications will be reported through the budget process.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 None to report at present.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 Whilst there are no specific equality implications at this stage, various policies will be reviewed through the improvements in procedures throughout NBC. All reviews will be supported by equality and community impact assessments.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Internal consultation has taken place with Corporate Management Board and other senior officers where required.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 None specifically

5. Background Papers

5.1 None at present

Joanne Bonham, Governance & Risk Manager