

Appendices:

1. Q1 20/21 Corporate risk register
2. Covid-19 SCG risk register
3. Brexit risk register



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Risk Register Update
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Audit Committee Meeting Date: 24th August 2020

Policy Document: Risk Registers

Services: Chief Finance Officer

Accountable Cabinet Member: Jonathan Nunn - Leader

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents the Q1 Corporate Risk Register for 2020/2021, the Covid-19 SCG risk register and the current Brexit risk register.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee agree that the Corporate Risk Register continues to be presented quarterly as part of the Governance Report and note the SCG and Brexit risk registers.

3. Issues of note

3.1 Report Background

Previously, the Audit Committee has been presented with the Governance Report that is produced on quarterly basis. The Corporate Risk Register forms part of the Governance report and the risk registers have been requested due to the lack of update to the registers since the outbreak of Covid-19. This report shows the updated Q1 report as of 30 June 2020, the SCG register as at 31 July 2020 and the Brexit register as at 31 July 2020.

3.2 Issues

Q1 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 June 2020. Of these 10% are rated red, 85% amber and 5% rated green.

3.2.2 Three risks had a change in the current rating:

1. Risk number 1: Increase in rating due to costs pressures of Covid-19.
2. Risk number 2: Reduction of rating due to Standards committee agreeing the protocol on 29th June 2020 and approval at full council on 27th July 2020.
2. Risk number 20: Increase in rating due to the ongoing discussions with LGSS over the delivery of services.

3.2.3 The corporate risk register will be updated for Q2 2020/2021 during September 2020. Any significant changes will be reported to Cabinet.

Covid-19 SCG Risk Register

3.2.4 At the outbreak of the pandemic, a Strategic Command Group (SCG) and Tactical Command Group were implemented. Part of the work of the two groups is to manage the situation and prepare risk registers to highlight the main areas of concern. The risk register is a working document, reviewed at the weekly SCG meetings and updated as and when required.

Brexit Risk Register

3.2.5 The Brexit risk register was developed in 2019 and was reviewed by the Corporate Management Board. As of March 2020 the Brexit register has not been updated but was circulated to the Corporate Management Board for review, and where required, updates and comments.

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