

Joint Audit and Governance Committee



Report of the Head of Corporate Services

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To: Joint Audit and Governance Committee

DATE: 13 July 2020

Corporate risk review

Recommendation

That the Committee undertakes a half yearly progress review of the corporate risk registers as outlined in the risk management strategy.

Purpose of the review

1. This is the half yearly progress review of the corporate risk registers for South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC). This review follows on from the joint audit and governance committee report in July 2019. There was no joint audit and governance committee meeting in Feb 2020.
2. The contact officers are Yvonne Cutler Greaves, Assurance team leader and Allison Holliday Risk and Insurance Officer for South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Vale of White Horse District Council (VWDC), telephone 01235 422225.

Strategic Objectives

3. Managing the business effectively.

Background

4. The corporate risk registers attached have been compiled as outlined in the risk management framework and reviewed and updated with individual Heads of Service and have considered the impact of Covid 19 on the councils' operations. These are included where relevant in the attached.
5. There are a total of 52 risks (43 last report) on the South Oxfordshire District Council Corporate risk register and 53 risks (43 last report) on the Vale of White Horse District Council corporate risk register.
6. The top 10 risks are shown below:

Rank	Risk ref South/Vale	Description
1	2/2	IT Cybersecurity breach
2	15/15	Failure of third-party contracts
3	50/49	Loss of council revenues and increased council expenditure will result in council deficits going forward and inability to progress key projects. (Covid 19)
4	19/18	Failure to capitalise and influence national initiatives that benefit the districts.
5	34/33	Failure to provide suitable council office accommodation that is fit for purpose on time
6	11/11	Failure to fulfil the GDPR requirements
7	9/9	Failure to have an effective health and safety management system in place
8	33/ 32	Councils do not comply with their contractual obligations set down in 3rd party contracts resulting in inefficient operations, financial penalties and loss of reputation.
9	4/4	Council offices site security insufficient at 135 and Abbey House
10	51/ 52	Failure to effectively manage response to Covid 19 both during the incident and after as part of recovery.

7. Five risks have increased their score since last reported in July 2019:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description
21/20	Changes in legislation and government policy
7/ 7	Poor staff morale, wellbeing and personal security

13/13	Failure to adequately manage council finances to consider reduction in central government funding
44/43	Failure to identify new channels of revenue growth
23/22	Lack of informed and consistent decision making

8. Five risks have reduced their risk score since last reported in July 2019:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description
12/12	Poor/inconsistent programme and project management
34/33	Failure to provide suitable council office accommodation that is fit for purpose on time
37/36	Failure to prevent corporate fraud activity
38/37	Failure to deliver a major election
3/3	IT Infrastructure not supported

9. There are nine new risks for South Oxfordshire District Council and ten new risks for Vale of White Horse District Council:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description
47/48	Failure to allocate enough council resources to run new community amenities
49/50	Third party Business Contingency Plan is not fit for purpose
50/51	Loss of council revenues and increased council expenditure (Covid 19)
51/52	Failure to effectively manage the council response to Covid 19
52/54	Failure to prevent fraud when managing Covid 19 grants payments
53/ 55	Lack of clarity and transparency from central government on payment of discretionary Covid 19 payments
54/56	Lack of clarity and transparency on process of business grants payments due to Covid 19
55/53	Failure to manage expectations as to role of new community hub
56/57	Dealing with Covid 19 and all staff working remotely may cause delays in council decision making

V 58	Failure to deliver Dalton Barracks Garden Village
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10. One risk has been successfully mitigated and completed

Risk ref South/Vale	Description
48/49	Failure to ensure a smooth transition of HR and payroll services back 'in house'.

11. Covid 19 council response. The Assurance team leader was present at all the triage meetings recording the risks and mitigations over a three month period. There were weekly reviews both at triage and SMT to ensure due diligence and to support the councils' decision making. Covid 19 council response risk register is attached to this report.

Financial Implications

12. There are financial implications attached to managing the risks outlined in the corporate risk registers, and risk owners are responsible for ensuring costs of mitigation are proportionate to the risk exposure.

Legal Implications

13. None.

Risks

14. Risk identification is an integral part of this progress review.

Other Implications

15. None

Appendices

- Corporate risk register South Oxfordshire District Council July 2020
- Corporate risk register Vale of White Horse District Council July 2020
- Council response to Covid 19 risk register.