

Joint Audit and Governance Committee



Report of the Head of Policy and Programmes

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To: Joint Audit and Governance Committee

DATE: 25 January 2022

AGENDA ITEM or
REPORT NO

Corporate risk review

Recommendation(s)

(a) 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 and Vale of White Horse District Council. This review follows on from the joint audit and governance committee report in July 2021.
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 (VoWHDC).

Strategic Objectives

3. Openness and accountability in South Oxfordshire.

4. Working in an open and inclusive way in the Vale of White Horse.

Background

5. The corporate risk registers attached have been compiled as outlined in the risk management framework and reviewed and updated with individual Heads of Service. Since last reporting in July 2021, we are now operating as Business as Usual, and all Covid 19 Risks have been reallocated to appropriate service risk registers.
6. There are a total of 23 risks (37 last report) on the South Oxfordshire District Council corporate risk register and 25 risks (38 last report) on the Vale of White Horse District Council corporate risk register.
7. The top eight risks for South Oxfordshire District Council are shown below:

Risk ref	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
49	Third party contractors BCP's and files back-ups are not fit for purpose.	8/7
64	IT Cybersecurity breach due to inadequate security protection of the council's external website	8/6
2	IT Cybersecurity breach due to inadequate security protection of the Software as Service Non cloud applications	8/6
11	Failure to fulfil the Data Protection legislative requirements.	8/6
9	Failing to have an effective health and safety management system in place.	8/6
58	IT and data security compromised due to remote working and naïve user behaviour	8/6
23	Lack of informed and consistent decision making across the council	7/5
4	Failure to manage the security of all council owned assets including council offices	7/5

8. The top seven risks for Vale of White Horse District Council are shown below:

Risk ref	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
50	Third party contractors BCP's and files back-ups are not fit for purpose.	8/7
2	IT Cybersecurity breach due to inadequate security protection of the Software as Service Non cloud applications	8/6
67	IT Cybersecurity breach due to inadequate security protection of the council's external website	8/6
11	Failure to fulfil the Data Protection legislative requirements.	8/6
9	Failing to have an effective health and safety management system in place.	8/6
62	IT and data security compromised due to remote working and naïve user behaviour	8/6
4	Failure to manage the security of all council owned assets including council offices	7/5

9. One risk has increased gross risk score.

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
4/4	Failure to manage the security of all council owned assets including council offices	7/5

10. Twelve risks have reduced their risk score in South Oxfordshire District Council and in Vale of White Horse District Council since last reported in July 2021:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
49/50	Third party contractors BCP's and files back-ups are not fit for purpose.	8/7
2/2	IT Cybersecurity breach due inadequate security protection	8/6

41/41	Major incident in the district - failure to adequately respond to a major incident affecting our residents	6/3
7/7	Poor staff morale, and wellbeing as a result of long period of working from home,	5/3
8/8	Failure to attract and recruit staff with the necessary skills	5/3
24/24	Failure to maintain a consistent standard of customer service	5/3
21/20	Changes in legislation and government policy, may impact the operational delivery	5/3
15/15	Failure of third-party contracts to deliver acceptable levels of statutory service	5/3
42/47	Failure to engage and communicate with our residents regarding key decisions	5/3
19/18	Failure to capitalise on and influence national initiatives that benefit the districts	4/3
18/17	Failure to realise future funding for Garden Communities	4/3
14/14	Failure to maximise opportunities to realise areas of revenue growth	4/3

11. There are two new risks for South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
63/66	Failure to deliver on Joint Local Planning Policy resulting in penalties	5/3
64/67	IT Cybersecurity breach due to inadequate security protection of the council's external website	8/6

12. Three risks have been merged into one risk Vale of White Horse District council.

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
60/64 (merged risks 60/51/13)	Failure to eliminate or significantly reduce revenue budget funding gap	5/3

13. Two risks have been successfully mitigated and completed in South Oxfordshire District Council and one risk have been successfully mitigated in Vale of White Horse District council

Risk ref South/Vale	Description
60/63	Failure to procure insurance on time
61 (merged with 51/13) South only	Failure to eliminate or significantly reduce revenue budget funding gap

14. Nine risks in South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District council have been returned to the appropriate service area risk registers for review:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description
59/60	Lack of clarity around R&R's for property maintenance
38/37	Failure to deliver a major election in the district
12/12	Poor and inconsistent programme and project management
32/28	Failure to secure the redevelopment of key council owned sites
34/33	Failure to provide suitable office accommodation
51/52	Failure to anticipate the impact of the requirements of recovery roadmap on our districts
45/44	Brexit may impact economic viability of the districts
22/21	Changes in political landscape across districts/county and nationally

6/6	Failure to manage flexible working in response to external factors
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Financial Implications

15. 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

16. None.

Risks

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

Other Implications

18. None

Attached:

- South Corporate Risk Register Jan 2022
- Vale Corporate Risk Register Jan 2022