

Joint Audit and Governance Committee



Report of the Head of Finance
 Author: Yvonne Cutler Greaves
 Telephone: 07917 088357
 E-mail: yvonne.cutlergreaves@southandvale.gov.uk
 South cabinet member responsible: Councillor Andrea Powell

**AGENDA ITEM or
 REPORT NO**

<p>E-mail: andrea.powell@southoxon.gov.uk Telephone: 07882 584120 Vale cabinet member responsible: Councillor Debby Hallett Telephone: 07545 241013 E-mail: debby.hallett@whitehorsedc.gov.uk To: Joint Audit and Governance Committee DATE: 28 March 2023</p>	
---	--

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 (South) and Vale of White Horse District Council (Vale). This review follows on from the joint audit and governance committee report in July 2022.
2. The contact officer for this report is Yvonne Cutler Greaves, Risk and Insurance Team Leader for South and Vale, email yvonne.cutlergreaves@southandvale.gov.uk.

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.
6. There are a total of 25 risks (16 last report) on the South corporate risk register and 24 risks (16 last report) on the Vale corporate risk register.
7. None of the Councils risks has increased their gross risk score.
8. Three risks have reduced their net risk score in both South and Vale registers since last reported in July 2022:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
65	IT Cybersecurity breach due to inadequate security protection of the council's external website may lead to the council systems and data being compromised and result in council financial and reputation loss.	8/3
2	IT Cybersecurity breach due to inadequate security protection of the Software as Service cloud applications (Zellis/Unit 4 etc) may lead to the council systems and data being compromised and result in council financial and reputation loss.	8/3
4	Failure to manage the security of all council owned assets including council offices	7/3

9. There are seven new risks for South and Vale:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
73/75	Failure to provide suitable temporary housing for the asylum refugees in our district results in the council not fulfilling its statutory obligations as the levels of homelessness increase.	9/8
70/72	Failure of waste service at end of current contract in June 2024 may result in poor service to residents and loss of reputation and potential fines.	8/8
69/71	Failure to respond to change in waste legislation (Environment Act 2021) may result in loss of council reputation and fines.	8/6
75/77	Failure to understand the effects of the programme, to house refugees, has on council residents who are waiting to be housed may impact community wellbeing and cohesion across the districts leading to dissatisfied residents and loss of council reputation.	8/6

72/74	The transformation programme aim whereby staff will be enabled by systems and processes to deliver four key outcomes: 1. Customers (services accessible to all) 2. Digital data and technology (user centred, secure, and trusted) 3. People (supported, skilled and resilient) 4. Future proofing the council (continually improving; efficient and adaptable) are not realised over the timeframe resulting in outdated processes delivering a poor standard of customer service, lower efficiencies, and loss of reputation.	8/6
71/73	Failure to provide a full menu of leisure centre activities and reduced opening hours due to the economic crises and pressures on fuel costs to enable a leisure centre with pool to operate results in loss of reputation at a time when wellbeing is key corporate objective and poor customer service.	7/5
74/76	Failure to plan for the potential long term impact high inflation has on council finances linked to future Government funding limits results in poor service.	6/6

10. One risk has been re-introduced for South and Vale:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
38/38	Failure to deliver a major election in accordance with our statutory requirements including the Elections Act results in reputational damage and costs to re-run an election.	8/5

11. The top ten risks for South and Vale are shown below:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
73/75 New	Failure to provide suitable temporary housing for the asylum refugees in our district results in the council not fulfilling its statutory obligations as the levels of homelessness increase.	9/8
70/72 New	Failure of waste service at end of current contract in June 2024 may result in poor service to residents and loss of reputation and potential fines.	8/8
49/50	Third party contractors BCPs and file back-ups are not fit for purpose.	8/7

11/11	Failure to fulfil the Data Protection legislative requirements.	8/6
9/9	Failure to have an effective health and safety management system in place.	8/6
58/62	IT and data security compromised due to remote working and naïve user behaviour.	8/6
69/71 New	Failure to respond to change in waste legislation (Environment Act 2021) may result in loss of council reputation and fines.	8/6
75/77 New	Failure to understand the effects of the programme to house refugees has on council residents who are waiting to be housed may impact community wellbeing and cohesion across the districts leading to dissatisfied residents and loss of council reputation.	8/6
72/74 New	The transformation programme aim whereby staff will be enabled by systems and processes to deliver four key outcomes: 1. Customers (services accessible to all) 2. Digital data and technology (user centred, secure, and trusted) 3. People (supported, skilled and resilient) 4. Future proofing the council (continually improving; efficient and adaptable) are not realised over the timeframe resulting in outdated processes delivering a poor standard of customer service, lower efficiencies, and loss of reputation.	8/6
38	Failure to deliver a major election in accordance with our statutory requirements including the Elections Act results in reputational damage and costs to re - run an election.	8/5

Climate and Ecological Impact Implications

12. There are no direct climate or ecological implications arising from this report. The corporate risk review supports the councils in achieving their corporate objectives in this area.

Financial Implications

13. 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

14. None.

Risk Implications

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

Other Implications

16. None

Attached:

- South Corporate Risk Register March 2023
- Vale Corporate Risk Register March 2023