

Joint Audit and Governance Committee



**AGENDA ITEM or
REPORT NO**

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 Pieter-Paul Baker

E-mail: Pieter-Paul.Barker@southoxon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01844 212438

Vale cabinet member responsible: Councillor Andrew Crawford

Telephone: 07427 880274

E-mail: Andy.Crawford@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: Joint Audit and Governance Committee

DATE: 3 October 2023

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 March 2023.
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 31 risks (25 last report) on the South corporate risk register and 31 risks (25 last report) on the Vale corporate risk register.
7. None of the Councils' risks have increased their gross risk score.
8. One risk has been mitigated:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
66/68	Failure to consider the impact of war in Ukraine on Council finances whereby expenditure may increase faster than income due to inability to increase council tax at the same rate and may impact the economic viability of specific services within the districts in the short to medium term.	7/2

9. Two risks have reduced their net risk score in both South and Vale registers since last reported in March 2023:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
49/50	Third party contractors BCPs and file back-ups are not fit for purpose.	8/6
73/75	Failure to provide suitable temporary housing for the asylum refugees in our district and the inability to safely manage the requirements of various resettlement schemes (ARAP, ACRS, Homes for Ukraine, Syrian etc). Whilst unsuccessful integration would result in disruption for families or the local community	9/7

10. Three risks have been returned to the service risk registers:

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
14/14	Failure to recognise opportunities for revenue growth	4/2

11. There are 11 new risks for South and Vale:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
76/78	Failure to plan for 5CP exit and ensure seamless transition, will impact IT and services, and may lead to loss of reputation.	8/5
77/79	Failure to secure options for future new waste depot. This may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No collection services / build-up of waste • Poor publicity/reputational damage • Health risk • Increased complaints 	8/6
78/80	Increased approaches of homelessness that are unmanageable by the council exacerbated by national shortage of rented accommodation. This may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of unsuitable temporary accommodation, such as B&B and hotel, beyond acceptable timescale 	8/5
79/81	Failure to anticipate the impact on service of the building safety regulations results in unlicensed building inspectors unable to undertake inspections and reduced service.	7/5
84/86	Failure to have an effective recruitment and retention strategy in place, which ensures the councils can attract, recruit and retain staff with the necessary skills to roles across service teams.	7/5
86/88	Failure to manage stakeholders (officers/members/residents and partners) expectations whilst undertaking the delivery of council services and projects in a fast everchanging environment,	7/5
80/82	Failure to plan for a smooth transition of Ocella replacement to Idox may result in reduced/no council service Planning/ Environmental health etc.	7/5
81/83	Third party supplier suffers a cyber-attack and data breach resulting in personal data of residents and staff being leaked ICO reports, fines, and loss of council reputation.	7/5
82/84	Failure to understand and plan for the impact on the councils of HIF development rejection by OCC planning committee will result in loss of finances delayed joint local plan, infrastructure and growth and potential unplanned development due to loss of 5-year housing supply.	5/5
83/85	Failure of Registered Providers in the district to deliver and operate affordable housing leads to shortage of affordable housing to meet our housing needs register.	5/5
85/87	Failure to deliver a new corporate plan within timeframe set ,with clear, realistic and measurable objectives that are resilient to reflect the everchanging policy landscape and priorities.	5/3

12. One risk has merged:

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
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. MERGED with risk 73S/75V on risk register.	8/6

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

Risk ref South/Vale	Description	Risk score Gross/Net
73 /75	Failure to provide suitable temporary housing for the asylum refugees in our district and the inability to safely manage the requirements of various resettlement schemes (ARAP, ACRS, Homes for Ukraine, Syrian etc). Whilst unsuccessful integration would result in disruption for families or the local community.	9/7
49/50	Third party contractors BCPs and file back-ups are not fit for purpose.	8/7
77/79 New	Failure to secure options for future new waste depot. This may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No collection services / build-up of waste Poor publicity/reputational damage Health risk Increased complaints 	8/6
9/9	Failing to have an effective health and safety management system in place and lack of resource to support, may result in a fatality, illness or injury to staff or anyone else affected by our business; damage to property; legal action by HSE; civil claims and increased costs.	8/6
58/62	IT and data security compromised due to remote working and naive user behaviour, which may result in data breach and fines/loss of reputation.	8/6
69/71	Failure to meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.	8/6
70/72	Failure to reach an agreement with the contractor to provide waste and street cleansing services at the end of the current contract (June 2024). This may result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No/poor waste and street scene services Financial implication of short-term arrangements Reputational damage Non-compliance with statutory requirements 	8/5
11/11	Failure to fulfil the Data Protection legislative requirements may result in fines, insurance claims, and	8/5

	reputational damage if data is breached or a challenge is made.	
78/80 New	Increased approaches of homelessness that are unmanageable by the council exacerbated by national shortage of rented accommodation. This may result in: Use of unsuitable temporary accommodation, such as B&B and hotel, beyond acceptable timescale	8/5
76/78 New	Failure to plan for 5CP exit and ensure seamless transition, will impact IT and services revs and bens/land charges loss of reputation etc.	8/5

Climate and Ecological Impact Implications

14. 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

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.

Risk Implications

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

Other Implications

18. None

Attached:

- South Corporate Risk Register October 2023
- Vale Corporate Risk Register October 2023