

Report to	Governance and Audit Committee
Date of meeting	24 th July 2024
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Julie Matthews, Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities / Helen Vaughan-Evans – Head of Corporate Support: Performance, Digital & Assets
Head of Service	Helen Vaughan-Evans – Head of Corporate Support: Performance, Digital & Assets
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Title	Corporate Risk Register Summary (July 2024)

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 For information an update on the Corporate Risk Register Summary (Appendix 1) as at July 2024.
- 2.1 This is in line with the agreed proposal for quarterly, lighter-touch reviews with risk owners, that can then feed for information only into Governance and Audit meetings throughout the year, except November when it is tabled for discussion. Please note that this approach is something that we will pilot and revisit at the end of financial year 2024/2025.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.2 Following an [agreed amended approach](#), to provide a 'more iterative' risk reporting throughout the year, this report gives information regarding the latest Corporate Risk Register Summary.

3 What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Governance and Audit Committee receives the Corporate Risk Register Summary (Appendix 1) for information.
- 3.2 In line with the [Governance and Audit Committee's Terms of Reference¹](#), identify governance and audit related risks that warrant further scrutiny.

4 Report details

- 4.1 For information an update on the Corporate Risk Register Summary (Appendix 1) if provided as at July 2024
- 4.2 This report is following an agreed amended approach to risk reporting, to provide 'more iterative' risk reporting throughout the year to the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 4.3 The Corporate Risk Register is developed and owned by SLT alongside Cabinet. The previous in-depth review was undertaken in February 2024. Papers last submitted for information to Governance and Audit Committee ([April 2024 – Item 11](#)) are available online.
- 4.4 The council currently has 13 Corporate Risks on the Register. No risks have been de-escalated and neither have any new risks been added.
- 4.5 Whilst Corporate Executive Team (CET) have inputted via email, no significant changes have been made during June 2024 by the Risk Owners and residual risk scores remain unchanged for all 13 Corporate Risks.
- 4.6 Governance and Audit Committee should be assured that CET are taking a proactive monitoring approach to Corporate Risk, and quarterly 'deep-dives' into risks have been scheduled into CET's Forward Work Plan. For 2024 these deep dives are scheduled for the following risks:

¹ Namely: To obtain assurance that the risk management processes are robust and being consistently applied across the council, including: – review and endorsement of the Risk Management Policy and Guidance, – monitoring the application of our risk management processes.

- 01- The risk of a serious safeguarding or practice error, where the council has responsibility, resulting in serious harm or death.
- 31- The risk of fraud and corruption resulting in financial and reputational loss and possibly impacting on service delivery.
- 34- The risk that there is insufficient regulated care.
- 48- The risk that recruitment and retention issues leads to a loss of expertise and capacity resulting in poor or inadequate performance.

4.7 The committee should also be assured that financial risks have an ongoing and detailed process in place to ensure that those risks are constantly monitored as part of general budget discussions.

Risk Appetite Statement

4.8 The Risk Appetite Statement ([as reviewed April 2024](#)) has been applied.

4.9 Seven risks (54%) remain inconsistent with the council's Risk Appetite Statement. These are as follows:

- 01- The risk of a serious safeguarding or practice error, where the council has responsibility, resulting in serious harm or death.
- 21- The risk that the integration of health and social care services between BCUHB and DCC does not develop further.
- 34- The risk that there is insufficient regulated care.
- 45- The risk to the Council's reputation of not responding swiftly or sufficiently enough in making our contribution to tackle climate change and bring about nature's recovery following the declaration of a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency in July 2019.
- 50- The risk that Welsh Government's commitment to eliminate profit from the care of Children Looked After results in an unstable or unsuitable supply of placements.
- 51- Economic and financial environment worsens and results in the inability to set a balanced budget.
- 52 - Insufficient funding leads to withdrawal or scaling back of services, even when a balanced budget is delivered.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 The purpose of the Corporate Risk Register is to identify the potential future events that may have a detrimental impact on the council's ability to deliver its objectives, including its corporate priorities. The identified controls and actions are, therefore, crucial to the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 The cost of developing, monitoring and reviewing the Corporate Risk Register is absorbed within existing budgets.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1 The Corporate Risk Register documents identify risks and mitigating actions. The process of developing and reviewing the document itself does not impact adversely on any of the well-being goals. However, any new process, strategy or policy arising as a result of a mitigating action may require a well-being impact assessment.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1 In June, prior to Governance and Audit Committee the CET Risk Owners (Chief Executive Officer and Corporate Directors) were asked to give input by email to confirm the content of the Corporate Risk Register Summary, or detail any changes needed to main register .

8.2 The Corporate Risk Register Summary circulated to SLT/Cabinet and has been shared for information with Performance Scrutiny Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from developing, monitoring and reviewing the Corporate Risk Register.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 There are no risks associated with this review.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

11.2 The Council's Constitution outlines the roles and responsibilities of senior officers and stipulates that clear procedures and processes must be in place to manage risk effectively.