

 EXECUTIVE 13 July 2020		Agenda Item No. 5
Title	Significant Business Risk Register	
For further information about this report please contact	Richard Barr Audit & Risk Manager Tel: 01926 456815 email: richard.barr@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	12 February 2020 – Executive	
Background Papers	Minutes of Senior Management Team	
Contrary to the policy framework:	No	
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No	
Key Decision?	No	
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No	
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No (N/A: no direct service implications)	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to report approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved as follows		
Title	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	29 June 2020	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	29 June 2020	Mike Snow
CMT	29 June 2020	CMT
Section 151 Officer	29 June 2020	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	29 June 2020	Andrew Jones
Finance	29 June 2020	As S151 Officer
Portfolio Holder(s)	29 June 2020	Councillor Andrew Day
Consultation & Community Engagement		
None other than consultation with members and officers listed above.		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) N/A		

1 **Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out the latest version of the Council's Significant Business Risk Register for review by the Executive. It has been drafted following a review by the Council's Senior Management Team and the Leader of the Council.

2 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Executive should review the Significant Business Risk Register attached at Appendix 1 and consider if any further actions should be taken to manage the risks facing the organisation.
- 2.2 That Executive should note the emerging risks identified in section 10 of this report.

3 **Reason for the Recommendations**

- 3.1 This report seeks to assist members fulfil their role in overseeing the organisation's risk management framework. A very useful source of guidance on the responsibilities of members and officers with regard to risk management came from the Audit Commission in its management paper, "Worth the risk: improving risk management in local government":

"Members need to determine within existing and new leadership structures how they will plan and monitor the council's risk management arrangements. They should:

- decide on the structure through which risk management will be led and monitored;
- consider appointing a particular group or committee, such as an audit committee, to oversee risk management and to provide a focus for the process;
- agree an implementation strategy;
- approve the council's policy on risk (including the degree to which the council is willing to accept risk);
- agree the list of most significant risks;
- receive reports on risk management and internal control – officers should report at least annually, with possibly interim reporting on a quarterly basis;
- commission and review an annual assessment of effectiveness: and
- approve the public disclosure of the outcome of this annual assessment, including publishing it in an appropriate manner.

The role of senior officers is to implement the risk management policy agreed by members.

It is important that the Chief Executive is the clear figurehead for implementing the risk management process by making a clear and public personal commitment to making it work. However, it is unlikely that the chief executive will have the time to lead in practice and, as part of the planning process, the person best placed to lead the risk management implementation and improvement process should be identified and appointed to carry out this task. Other people throughout the organisation should also be tasked with taking clear responsibility for appropriate aspects of risk management in their area of responsibility."

4 Policy Framework

4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities.	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB.	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels.
Impacts of Proposal		
<p>The Significant Business Risk Register is based on the Council's corporate priorities and key strategic projects that are reflected in Fit for the Future. The Fit for the Future programme is also based on an agreed set of values amongst which are the ones of openness and honesty. This is integral to the consideration of risk in an organisation; risk issues need to be discussed and debated and mitigation put in place, in order to prevent them materialising. It does not mean, however, that all risks recorded are immediately impending or are likely to happen. Paradoxically, to not debate risks is to help them more likely to materialise.</p> <p>It is worth members re-apprising themselves of the basis on which risks are scored in relation to likelihood and impact – see Appendix 3. The probability of a risk being realised, and how many times it might happen, is assessed over a number of years, not as if it is going to happen tomorrow.</p>		

Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting

All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours.	Increase the digital provision of services.	Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money.
Impacts of Proposal		
Although there are no direct policy implications, risk management is an essential part of corporate governance and will be a major factor in helping to achieve the above outcomes.		

4.2 **Supporting Strategies**

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies but description of these is not relevant for the purposes of this report.

4.3 **Changes to Existing Policies**

This section is not applicable but it should be noted that if the report on a Strategic Business Plan elsewhere on this Executive agenda is agreed then the SBRR may need to be amended to reflect the contents of that eventual Plan.

4.4 **Impact Assessments**

This section is not applicable.

5 **Budgetary Framework**

5.1 Although there are no direct budgetary implications arising from this report, risk management performs a key role in corporate governance including that of the Budgetary Framework. An effective control framework ensures that the Authority manages its resources and achieves its objectives economically, efficiently and effectively.

5.2 The risk register sets out when the realisation of risks might have financial consequences. One of the criteria for severity is based on the financial impact.

6 **Risks**

6.1 The whole report is about risks and the risk environment. Clearly there are governance-related risks associated with a weak risk management process.

7 **Alternative Options Considered**

7.1 This report is not concerned with recommending a particular option in preference to others so this section is not applicable.

8 **Background**

8.1 The Significant Business Risk Register (SBRR) records all significant risks to the Council's operations, key priorities, and major projects. Individual services also have their own service risk registers.

- 8.2 The SBRR is reviewed quarterly by the Council's Senior Management Team and the Council Leader and then, in keeping with members' overall responsibilities for managing risk, by the Executive. The latest version of the SBRR is set out as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 8.3 A summary of all the risks and their position on the risk matrix, as currently assessed, is set out as Appendix 2.
- 8.4 The assessments of risk are judgemental, being based on an assessment of the likelihood of something occurring and the impact that might have. Appendix 3 sets out the guidelines that are applied to assessing risk.
- 8.5 In line with the traditional risk matrix approach, greater concern should be focused on those risks plotted towards the top right corner of the matrix whilst the converse is true for those risks plotted towards the bottom left corner of the matrix. If viewed in colour (e.g. on-line), the former set of risks would be within the area shaded red, whilst the latter would be within the area shaded green; the mid-range would be seen as yellow.

9 **Recent Movements in Risk**

- 9.1 Senior Management Team has undertaken a major review of the SBRR in light of the ongoing pandemic. Nearly all of the risks identified in the register have been impacted by the consequences of the virus. Whilst there is still a great deal of uncertainty about the outcome, it is clear that the Council will need to review the way it has responded to events and develop an action plan to enhance its response should there be a similar scenario in the future.

10 **Emerging Risks**

- 10.1 As part of the process of assessing the significant business risks for the Council, some issues have been identified which at this stage do not necessarily represent a significant risk, or even a risk at all, but as more detail emerges may become one. These have been mentioned in previous reports but as their status has not changed they are included again for completeness.
- Funding – at the time of writing, the Government is considering what further financial support it can offer to Councils following the imposition of Lockdown. The outcome of these deliberations will largely govern the Council's approach to service delivery and community support and development going forward.
 - Brexit – already recognised as a potential trigger to some of the Council's existing risks, this issue will be kept under review so that as details emerge of exactly what the Country's new trade and political relationships may mean, generally for local government and specifically for this Council, the implications for the Council's risk environment can be considered further.