

Guildford Borough Council

Report to: Corporate Governance and Standards Committee

Date: 16 January 2025

Ward(s) affected: All

Report of Director: Strategy & Corporate Services

Author: Andrea Barnett, Policy Officer and Luke Harvey, Corporate Strategy and Performance Manager

Tel: 01483 444829

Email: andrea.barnett@guildford.gov.uk; luke.harvey@guildford.gov.uk

Lead Councillor responsible: Councillor Carla Morson

Email: carla.morson@guildford.gov.uk

Report Status: Open

Risk Management and Corporate Risk Register (Q2 2024/25)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the council's corporate risks at the end of Q2 2024/25.

2. Recommendation to Committee

- 2.1. It is recommended that the committee notes the updated corporate risk register and makes any observations on its contents.

3. Reason for Recommendation:

- 3.1. To support the committee's constitutional role in respect of risk management.

4. Exemption from publication

- 4.1. No part of this report is exempt from publication.

5. Purpose of Report

- 5.1. To provide the committee with the updated corporate risk register and to provide assurance that the risks are being appropriately managed.

6. Strategic Priorities

- 6.1. Risk management is fundamental to achieving the council's strategic priorities. It underpins effective corporate governance, leadership as well as the direction, control and management of the council.

7. Background

Role of the Corporate Governance & Standards Committee

- 7.1. Part 2 (Article 10) of the council's constitution states that, in respect of risk management, the committee's purpose is:

... to provide independent assurance to councillors of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the authority's governance, risk management and control frameworks ...

- 7.2. The council's current Risk Management Strategy and Policy (2022-25) defines corporate risks as the 'highest level of risk ... risks included in the corporate risk register should be ones that could have an effect on the successful achievement of our long-term core purpose, priorities and outcomes'.

- 7.3. The corporate risk register has undergone review with individual risk owners and the wider Joint Leadership Team. Since the committee last received an update on risk in September, the following substantive changes have been made to the risk register:

No.	Risk	Substantive change to note (see the risk register for full information)
CR8	Insufficient IT model for level of change	Change to residual risk score: The residual likelihood score has increased from Medium (4) to Very High (6) as it was considered too low with the level of change happening within

No.	Risk	Substantive change to note (see the risk register for full information)
		the organisation. The team are in the early stages of developing a new ICT Strategy which will mitigate against this risk.
CR15	NPPF and the new Local Plan	In light of the government's new National Planning Policy Framework, a new risk has been added since the committee's September meeting.

- 7.4. Should Committee members have any queries about the report, please contact Luke Harvey (luke.harvey@guildford.gov.uk) and Andrea Barnett (andrea.barnett@guildford.gov.uk) at least two days prior to the Committee meeting to allow for liaison with relevant officers in order to provide a response.
- 7.5. A new risk management strategy has been developed for the council and is also being considered by the Committee as the next item on the for this meeting.
- 7.6. In building on the recent improvements to risk management that have previously been reported to this Committee, the new strategy articulates the overarching approach to risk management at the council. It commits the council to risk management as a core component of effective governance, leadership as well as the direction, control and management of the organisation at all levels. It has been developed to ensure conformance with sector best practice and guidance, as well as the risk profile of the council. Its development was a key action of the council's Improvement Plan, arising from the independent governance review undertaken by Solace in 2024.

8. Consultations

- 8.1. Strategic Directors, Assistant Directors and Lead Specialists are consulted on the corporate risk register regularly.
- 8.2. The Corporate Leadership Board (CLB) has also received the corporate risk register.

9. Key Risks

9.1. There are no additional risk management implications arising from this report.

10. Financial Implications

10.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report although individual risks may have financial implications. These will be progressed through the appropriate governance.

11. Legal Implications

11.1. The Council holds various statutory responsibilities for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and that public money is safeguarded, accounted for, and is used economically and effectively.

11.2. The statutory Best Value duty includes a requirement for local authorities to effectively manage risk.

12. Human Resource Implications

12.1. There are no Human Resource implications arising from this report.

13. Equality and Diversity Implications

13.1. There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

14. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

14.1. There are no climate change and/or sustainability implications arising from this report.

15. Conclusion

15.1. This report has provided an update on the council's corporate risks, which have been reviewed and updated since the committee last received an update in September.

16. Background Papers

None.

17. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Q2 2024/25 Corporate Risk Register