

Audit Committee

Monday 28th September 2020



Report of: Director Finance, S151

Title: Q3 2020/21 Corporate Risk Report Update.

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report: Denise Murray – Director of Finance, S151

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 3576255

Recommendation

The Audit Committee review and comment the Q3 2020/21 Corporate Risk Report (CRR) Appendix A.

Summary

Managing risks are an integral element to the achievement of the Bristol City Council's (BCC) Corporate Strategy (CS) deliverables. The Corporate Risk report sets out the council's current significant risks and summarises progress in managing the risks as at Quarter 3 2020-21. The Q3 Corporate Risk Management Report was presented to Cabinet in January 2021.

The CRR summary of risks is attached to this report at Appendix A is the latest formal iteration following a review by members of the council's Corporate Leadership Board (CLB) in January 2021.

The significant issues in the report are:

- The CRR is an important tool in managing risk. It aims to provide an overview of the significant risks facing the council and how they are being managed. The CRR attached to this report at Appendix A and is the latest formal iteration following a review by members of the council's Corporate Leadership Board (CLB) in January 2021. The Q3 2020/21 risk review included managers from across the Council.



1 Policy

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the council to have in place effective arrangements for the management of risk. These arrangements are reviewed each year and reported as part of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The Council is required to comment on the effectiveness of its arrangements in this regard. The statement must also identify any significant governance issues that may have resulted from failures in governance and risk management.

Risk Management is an integral part of good governance to which the Council is committed. Risk Management provides the framework and processes that enables the Council to manage uncertainty in a systematic way. As part of the Risk Management arrangements the Council reviews the Risk Management Assurance Policy on an annual basis.

It is considered good practice to regularly review and update the Risk Management Assurance Policy to ensure it strengthens the Council's approach to its risk management and assurance arrangements.

Ensuring that the Corporate Risk Report (CRR) is soundly based will help the council to ensure it is anticipating and managing key risks to optimise the achievement of the council's objectives and prioritise actions for managing those risks.

The CRR provides assurance to management and Members that the Bristol City Council's significant risks have been identified and arrangements are in place to manage those risks within the tolerance levels agreed.

The CRR is a management tool and needs regular review to ensure that the occurrence of obstacles or events that may put individual's safety at harm, impact upon service delivery and the council's reputation are minimised, opportunities are maximised and when risks happen, they are managed and communicated to minimise the impact.

The CRR has been prepared and presented in line with the Risk Management Assurance Policy that was approved by Cabinet in January 2019.

The output from the CRR will annually contribute to the annual Audit Plan.

2 Consultation

Internal - First to fourth tier managers, Extended Leadership Team, Corporate Leadership Team, Cabinet Member, Finance, Governance and Performance.

External – None

3 Context

3.1 The Corporate Risk Register (CRR)

3.1.1.1 The Corporate Leadership Board (CLB) reviewed the CRR in January 2021 and accepts it as a working summary report of the critical and significant risks from the Service Risk Registers which will need continued improvement as it embeds. The CRR was presented to Cabinet in January 2021.

The CRR (Appendix A) sets out the significant critical and high rated risks both threats and opportunities. All other business risks reside on the Service Risk Registers and reported in through the Directorate Risk Reports (DRR) and the CRR.

The CRR as January 2021 contained:

Threats	Opportunities	External / Contingency Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 critical • 16 high • 2 new • 4 improving • 1 deteriorating • 1 closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 significant • 3 high • 0 new • 1 improving • 1 deteriorating • 0 closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 critical • 1 high • 0 new • 1 improving • 0 deteriorating • 0 closed

A summary of risks (Threat and Opportunities) for this reporting period are set out below.

There are three critical threat risks:

- CRR41: Long Term Major Capital projects. The risk rating being 4x7 (28) critical threat risk. This risk is managed on the Growth and Regeneration Service Risk Registers.
- CRR9: Safeguarding Vulnerable Children. The risk rating being 4x7 (28) critical threat risk. This risk is managed on the People Service Risk Registers.
- CRR32: Failure to deliver enough affordable Homes to meet the City's needs. The risk rating being 4x7 (28) critical threat risk. This risk is managed on the Growth and Regeneration Service Risk Registers.

There are four improving threat risks:

- CRR5: Business Continuity and Council Resilience. The risk rating being 4x5 (20) high threat risk. This risk is managed on the Growth and Regeneration Service Risk Registers.
- CRR6: Fraud and Corruption. The risk rating being 3x5 (15) high threat risk. This risk is managed on the Resources Service Risk Registers.
- CRR12: Failure to deliver suitable emergency planning measures, respond to and manage emergency events when they occur. The risk rating being 4x5 (20) high threat risk. This risk is managed on the Growth and Regeneration Service Risk Registers.
- CRR34: Corporate Equalities. The risk rating being 1x5 (5) medium threat risk. This risk is managed on the Resources Service Risk Registers.

There are two new threat risks:

- CRR40: Unplanned Investment in Subsidiary Companies. The risk rating being 2x7 (14) high threat risk. This risk is managed on the Resources Service Risk Registers.
- CRR41: Long Term Major Capital projects. The risk rating being 4x7 (28) critical threat risk. This risk is managed on the Growth and Regeneration Service Risk Registers.

There is one closed threat risk:

- The risk CRR1: Lack of long term commercial investments and major projects has been reviewed, closed and replaced by, CRR40: Unplanned Investment in Subsidiary Companies, CRR41: Long Term Major Capital Projects and Financial Investments. The Financial Investment risk 2x5 (10) medium risk resides on the Resources Service Risk Registers.

There is one improving opportunity risk:

- OPP3: Devolution. The risk rating being 3x7 (21) high opportunity risk. This risk is managed on the Resources Service Risk Registers.

There is one deteriorating opportunity risk:

- OPP2: Corporate Strategy. The risk rating being 3x7 (21) high opportunity risk. This risk is managed on the Resources Service Risk Registers.

The risks BCCC2/OPP4 - Brexit is an unpredictable external threat and opportunity, and because of this the reporting for these entries may already be out of date. These risks are being managed within the Resources Service Risk Registers via a council-wide Brexit Project Board (for general preparedness) and Brexit Coordination Group (a tactical response group to manage any immediate issues presented in a 'no deal' scenario).

The external / contingency risk BCCC3: COVID -19 reflects the positive action and pace of change the Council has adapted to delivering its services. This risk is being overseen by the Corporate Leadership Team, Gold Meetings and within the Growth and Regeneration Director by the Resilience Director.

All risks on the CRR have management actions in place.

As with all risks, it is not possible to eliminate the potential of failure entirely without significant financial and social costs. The challenge is to make every reasonable effort to mitigate and manage risks effectively, and where failure occurs, to learn and improve.

Further details are contained in Appendix A: The summary of the threat risks is set out on pages 1 to 17 opportunity risks pages 18 to 19, and external and civil contingency risks on page 20 and 21 all including controls and management actions. A summary of risk performance on pages 22 and 23 by level of risk, the risk matrix on page 24 and the risk scoring criteria on page 25. More detail is available on request.

4 Proposal

The Audit Committee review and comment upon the Corporate Risk Report (CRR) as a source of assurance the Bristol City Council's significant and critical risks have been identified and arrangements are in place to manage those risks within the tolerance levels agreed.

5 Other Options Considered

None necessary. Having robust risk management processes in place is a requirement of the City Council. The CRR has been developed in line with the Risk Management Assurance Policy.

6 Risk Assessment

The Risk Management Assurance Policy and the CRR will further develop risk management assessment within the City Council, and help the management of risk arrangements embed.

7 Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a)** Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --

- remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

8b) No equalities assessment necessary for this report.

8 Legal and Resource Implications

Legal - N/A

Financial - N/A

Land - N/A

Personnel - N/A

9 Appendices:

Appendix A - Corporate Risk Report. The summary of the threat risks is set out on pages 1 to 17 opportunity risks pages 18 to 19, and external and civil contingency risks on page 20 and 21 all including controls and management actions. A summary of risk performance on pages 22 and 23 by level of risk, the risk matrix on page 24 and the risk scoring criteria on page 25. More detail is available on request.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Risk Management Assurance Policy.