

Audit Committee

30th May 2023



Report of: Director Finance, S151

Title: Q4 2022/23 Corporate Risk Report Update.

Ward: Citywide

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

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 3576255

Recommendation

.1 The Audit Committee review and comment on the Q4 2022/23 Corporate Risk Report (CRR)

Summary

This report presents the Corporate Risk Report (Appendix A) as at March 2023.

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 is 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).

1 Policy

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. The CRR provides assurance to management and Members that Bristol City Council's significant risks have been identified and arrangements are in place to manage those risks within the tolerance levels agreed.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. The CRR has been prepared and presented in line with the Risk Management Assurance Policy that was approved by Cabinet in January 2019.

2 Consultation

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

External - None

3 Context

Corporate Risk Register (CRR)

- 1.8. The registers and reports are a management tool. They need 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.

1.9. The Q4 22-23 Corporate Risk Report (CRR) as at March 2023 contained:

Threat Risks	Opportunity Risks	External / Contingency Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 Critical risks ▪ 20 High ▪ 3 Medium ▪ 1 Escalating from service risk registers ▪ 2 Improving ▪ 2 Deteriorating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 Critical ▪ 1 High ▪ 1 Medium

1.10. A summary of risks (Threat and Opportunities) for this reporting period are set out below with full detail available in Appendix A:

Threat Risks1.11. There are **two critical** threat risks:

- 'CRR13 - Financial Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)' The risk rating being $4*7 = 28$ critical threat risk. This risk is managed on the Resources Service Risk Register.
- 'CRR15 - In-Year Financial Deficit' The risk rating being $4*7 = 28$ critical threat risk. This risk is managed on the Resources Service Risk Register.

1.12. There is **one new** threat risks:

- 'CRR54 Financial sustainability of nursery schools' The risk rating being $3*7 = 21$ High Risk Level. This risk has escalated from the Children directorate risk report.

1.13. There are **two improving** threat risks within the report:

- 'CRR12 - Emergency planning measures and resources overwhelmed by scope and scale of an emergency or incident faced by the council' The risk rating being $2*4 = 14$ High Risk Level improving from a level of 21.
- 'CRR39 - Adult and Social Care major provider/supplier failure' The risk rating being $3*5 = 15$ High Risk Level improving from a level of 20.

1.14. There are **two deteriorating** threat risks within the report:

- 'CRR45 - Failure to deliver statutory duty in respect of Children' The risk rating being $4*5 = 20$ High Risk Level, deteriorating from a 15 High Risk Level.
- 'CRR15 - In-Year Financial Deficit' The risk rating being $4*7 = 28$ Critical Risk Level, deteriorating from a 21 High Risk Level.

External and Civil Contingency Risks1.15. There is **one critical external risk**:

- 'BCCC5 - Cost of Living Crisis impact on Citizens and Communities'. This risk has a risk rating of $3*7 = 21$ High Risk to $4*7 = 28$ critical risk.

Additional Information:

- For more detail on individual risks and their management, please see the attached Appendix A.
- The closed risks are now reflected within individual risks across the Council's Service Risk Registers.
- All risks on the CRR have management actions in place.

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.

Risk Management Framework

1.16. Risk management is the culture, process and structures that are directed towards effective management of potential opportunities and threats to the council achieving its priorities and objectives and a key element of the council's governance framework.

1.17. The risk management framework and process continue to be developed. During 2022/2023 we have:

- Continuous implementation of a new risk management database and risk data migration to the new system. New risk dashboards have been created for every division and directorate of the council to provide detail of their risks and actions in place to mitigate these. In addition, guidance documents and workshops has been provided on the systems' use.
- Risk workshops and better use of Pentana system to continue.
- The risk process continues to be embedded within the council with Risk and Insurance Colleagues attending where possible all DMTs, EDMs and CLB quarterly to review the identification and management of the council's significant threat and opportunity risks utilising risk dashboards created on our risk management database.

4) Proposal

- The Audit Committee are requested to receive and note the Risk Management update.
- The Audit Committee review and comment upon the Corporate Risk Report (CRR) as a source of assurance that risk management arrangements are in place.

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

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:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) 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.

- ii) 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.

7b) No equalities assessment necessary for this report.

8) Legal and Resource Implications

- Legal - N/A
- Financial - N/A
- Land - N/A
- Personnel - N/A