People Scrutiny Commission
27th September 2023

Report of: Risk and Insurance Senior Officers

Title: Corporate Risk Management Report - People Scrutiny Risks – Q1 2023/24

Ward: All

Officer Presenting Report: Risk and Insurance Senior Officer

Recommendations:

For the People Scrutiny Commission to note the attached Corporate Risks from the Corporate Risk Report Q1 2023/24 and Appendix A – Q1 Corporate Risk Register People Scrutiny Risks that contains a summary of the risks contained within the Corporate Risk Report that went to Cabinet on 4th July 2023.

1. Context

Corporate Risk Register (CRR)

1.1. The Corporate Risk Report (CRR) is a key document in the council's approach to the management of risk; it captures strategic risks set out in the Corporate Strategy 2018-2023. It also provides a context through which Directorates construct their own high-level risk assessments and is used to inform decision making about business planning, budget setting, transformation, and service delivery.

1.2. 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. It should be noted that 'risk' by definition includes both threats and opportunities, which is reflected in the CRR.

1.3. 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). Ensuring that the Service Risk Registers (SRR), Directorate Risk Reports (DRR) and the Corporate Risk Reports (CRR) are 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.

1.4. 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.

1.5. The CRR summary of PSC risks is attached to this report at Appendix A is the latest position following a review by managers and Directors.

Summary of People Corporate Risks:

1.6. The CRR sets out the critical, significant, and high rated risks both threats and opportunities. All other business risks reside on the Service Risk Registers.

1.7. The Q1 23-24 Corporate Risk Report (CRR) as at June 2023 contained the following risks that are the responsibility of the People directorate:

Threat Risks	Opportunity Risks	External / Contingency Risks
• 1 critical • 7 high • 0 medium • 0 new • 0 improving • 1 deteriorating • 0 closed	• 0 significant • 0 high • 0 medium • 0 new • 0 improving • 0 deteriorating • 0 closed	• 0 critical • 0 high • 1 medium • 1 Low • 0 new • **2 improving** • 0 deteriorating • 0 closed

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

Critical Threat Risks

1.9. There is one critical threat risk:
'CRR10 - Safeguarding Adults may be at Risk with Care and support needs.' The risk rating is 7*3 = 21 High Risk Level, deteriorating from a 5*3 =15 High Risk Level.

Deteriorating Risks

There is only one deteriorating Threat risks within the report:

1.10. 'CRR10 - Safeguarding Adults may be at Risk with Care and support needs.' The risk rating is 7*3 = 21 High Risk Level, deteriorating from a 5*3 =15 High Risk Level.

External and Civil Contingency Risks

1.11. There are two improving external threat risks within the report:
'BCCC5 - Cost of Living Crisis may have major impact on Citizens and Communities'. This risk has a risk rating of 4*7 = 28 Critical threat risk to 3*4 = 12 Medium threat risk
'BCCC4 - Possible Increase in Winter diseases including COVID-19 and Flu (formerly COVID-19 Population Health). This risk has a risk rating of 3*3 = 9 Medium threat risk to 1*3 = 3 Low threat risk

3. Policy

1.12. 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.

1.13. 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.

1.14. 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.

1.15. 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.

1.16. 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.

1.17. 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.

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

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

External - None

5. Public Sector Equality Duties
5a)   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.

  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.

5b)   No Equality Impact anticipated from this report.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Q1 Corporate Risk Report 2023-2024

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
Background Papers:

Risk Management Assurance Policy