

# **East Herts Council Report**

## **Audit and Governance Committee**

**Date of meeting:** 15 November 2022

**Report by:** Executive Member for Corporate Services

**Report title:** Monitoring of 2022/23 Quarter Two Corporate Risk Register

### **Appendixes:**

Appendix 1 – Summary of corporate risks quarter two

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Summary** – The report provides updates on our 13 corporate risks for quarter two and details of how East Herts will manage these risks moving forward.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Audit and Governance Committee:**

- a) The 2022/23 quarter two corporate risk register be reviewed, and officers advised of any further action that could be taken to manage risk.**

**The risks monitored at present are retained for the remainder of 2022/23 and that no new risks have currently been identified.**

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 Leadership Team reviews the content of the corporate risk register quarterly and provides updates that are relayed within this monitoring report to Audit and Governance Committee. In

preparation for the next financial year, a separate report is normally produced which recommends of any changes to the 13 corporate risks set and this is set out in quarter four reports.

2.2 Following a change in management of administering risk updates and writing reports, it was agreed that corporate risks are managed on our performance management system Pentana of which we already had the risk module for a number of years prior without utilizing.

2.3 This enables users to be able to see real time updates on each risk and contributes towards our digital by design aim by allowing members to self-serve. Members can log in at any point to [Pentana](#) to assess our risk register (please consult a member of Democratic Services for login details).

### **3.0 Risk register results for quarter two**

3.1 Leadership Team has set a risk tolerance level. Risks above the tolerance levels are actively managed and regularly reviewed to ensure that contingency and mitigation action is being taken. Risks below the tolerance line are managed by Heads of Service but these are often delegated. (Heads of Service are responsible for keeping all risks under review and taking action to reduce the impact of the risk on the council.)

3.2 A summary of business risks and the risk score is shown in the table below. Risks in the red are those actively managed. Details of how we score the risk score can be found underneath this table

Risk	Title	Risk Score
1	Financial resources	A4
2	Corporate governance and external political environment	B3
3	Performance, resilience, and security of IT systems	A3
4	Staff capacity and skills to deliver services	B2
5	Poor performance or failure of key partner or contractor	C4
6	Judicial review and or major legal challenge	C3
7	District Plan	A2
8	Climate change	A4
9	Child / vulnerable adult protection	A1
10	Equalities	B2
11	Internal control	B2
12	Outbreak of disease in humans	A4
13	Business Continuity Plan / Emergency Plan	A1

Likelihood		Description	Likelihood of occurrence	Probability of occurrence	
	4	High	Monthly	The event is expected to occur or occurs regularly	
	3	Medium	Annually	The event will probably occur	
	2	Low	1 in 5 years	The event may occur	
	1	Very Low	Less frequently than 1 in 5 years	The event may occur in exceptional circumstances	
Impact		Description	Financial	Reputation	Service / operation
	A	Critical	> £1m p.a.	Serious negative media	Catastrophic fall in service quality or long-term disruption to services
	B	Significant	£400,000 to £1m p.a.	Adverse national media	Major fall in service quality or serious disruption to services
	C	Marginal	£100,000 to £400,000 p.a.	Adverse local media	Significant fall in service quality
	D	Minor	< £100,000	Public concerns restricted to local complaints	Little impact to service quality

3.3 Please see appendix 1 for a comprehensive breakdown of each risk. There is very little change to quarter one position. The following is a summary of updates; -

- Risk one (Financial resources) – There has been a further update on our latest MTFP projections
- Risk four (Staff capacity) – There has been an update of some of the roles within the organisation that are of national shortage and our plans to address this as well as acceptance of succession plans for key roles
- Risk seven (District plan) – The risk level has risen from A1 to A2. This is specifically around the timing of a new District Plan needing to succeed the 2018 District Plan and the time reducing before this needs to be published
- Risk eight (Climate change) – There has been an update on some of the pieces of work that are being done across the Council to ensure we work towards of goals on sustainability and decarbonisation
- Risk 12 (Outbreak of disease) – There is an updated acceptance that as we head into winter, new variants of COVID and flu are likely to affect workforce (links to Risk four), but our agile working policy means we are more prepared

## **Community Safety**

No

## **Data Protection**

None specific but the topic features within the corporate risk register.

## **Equalities**

None specific but the topic features within the corporate risk register.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

None specific but climate change features within the corporate risk register.

## **Financial**

None specific but risk management can provide protection of budgets from unexpected losses. Better governance can be demonstrated and the annual audit plan is risk based.

## **Health and Safety**

None specific but risk management processes can provide a safer environment across the District and all services for the benefit of the public, staff and our contractors.

## **Human Resources**

No

## **Human Rights**

No

## **Legal**

None specific but legal matters feature within the corporate risk register.

**Specific Wards**

No

**Contact Member**

Councillor George Cutting, Executive Member  
for Corporate Services

[george.cutting@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:george.cutting@eastherts.gov.uk)

**Contact Officer**

Steven Linnett, Head of Strategic Finance and  
Property. Contact Tel. No. 01279 50 2050

[steven.linnett@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:steven.linnett@eastherts.gov.uk)

**Report Author**

Noel Wallis, Business Analyst. Contact Tel. No.  
01279 50 2146

[noel.wallis@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:noel.wallis@eastherts.gov.uk)