

East Herts Council Corporate Risk Register – 2021/22 quarter two

Appendix 1

No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
1	A 4	Financial Resources	<p>Reduction in government grant combined with higher demand for demand-led services such as homelessness, or failure to generate income.</p> <p>Failure to realise capital receipts from disposals to support capital expenditure.</p> <p>External auditor challenges MRP Policy and capital financing decisions</p> <p>Council Tax Referendum levels set too low to generate sufficient tax revenue. Sudden economic Down turn results in negative Tax Base figures because of increased local Council Tax support claims</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions in services required • Performance against community expectations and targets reduced • Investment in improvement not possible or severely reduced • Failure to meet statutory duties with potential for legal action or Local Government Ombudsman finds significant cases of maladministration • Corporate Manslaughter charges if maintenance works not carried out, e.g. Legionella in air handling and cooling units • Large numbers of staff redundancies • Major media 	Head of Strategic Finance & Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Balances held on risk assessment basis to cushion impact over short term (max 2 years) • Modelling of impact of grant settlement scenarios and function and funding changes • Three year MTFP savings programme • Transformation Programme in scoping stage to deliver savings and efficiencies through an emphasis on: digital self-service; process automation; agile working leading to a much reduced accommodation requirement with target of £1 million cashable savings. • Transforming East Herts Commercial Strategy will specify commercial skill sets and set out the council's approach to risk appetite

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			<p>Members do not agree significant savings at budget setting leading to an unbalanced budget leading to a s.114 report.</p> <p>Delay and/or significant cost over runs on major projects</p>	<p>engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for MHCLG intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay leads to cost increases beyond the ability of the council to finance the capital costs • Delays and cost overruns lead to non-delivery of savings requiring service offer reductions to compensate • Projected savings not achieved after project completion due to 		<p>and give guidance on how income generating ideas should be taken forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New capital programme items must make a return for the investment in cost reductions or income on top of covering the interest and MRP costs • Charges will be required to be in conformity with proposed corporate policy on charging recovering total costs and concessions will need to be justified in policy terms and funded by higher charges for others. • Business case reviews to ensure that projects make a return • Cost and income estimates commissioned from industry expert consultants to feed into business case • Project delivery by Major Projects Team with quarterly reports on

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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
				<p>changes in market away from service offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant local media engagement • Reputational damage. 		<p>progress to Leadership Team and Executive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction insurance presentation held in November and quotes to be sought for relevant covers. • Capital Programme is phased and financed across years and contingency built into budgets so can be re-phased if required.

Update on current position

1				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In developing our medium and longer term plans we will need to have regard to the broader context in which we will be working. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The impact of operating in an economy recovering from the Covid driven recession. The Government will have to consider how it begins to pay off the borrowing it has undertaken during the pandemic – this could mean a mixture of higher taxation, with possible impact on economic recovery, and reductions in public service expenditure. Both would impact on the Council’s income and ability to spend; ○ The shape of the post-Brexit and post-Covid economic and policy agenda, the impact of new post-EU funding regimes and the Government’s Levelling Up programme; ○ Specific uncertainty over the future of local government funding, and delays to key reforms. The level of Government funding that the council will receive from 2022/23 onwards is not confirmed; Spending Review 2020 was for a single year and therefore funding for this planning period will be announced at Spending Review 2021 which is likely to be in the autumn. Additionally, the Fair Funding Review and Business Rate Retention reform have now been confirmed delayed until at least 2022/23. These are significant areas of 		
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Update on current position

- change that currently are not fully understood and cannot be fully quantified but will have potentially significant financial impact.
- The lasting impact the pandemic will have on young people in terms of education and employment opportunities;
 - The growing impact of climate change, the national and local commitments to achieve carbon neutrality and the introduction of a range of new measures through the Environment Bill;
 - The impact of Government reviews and reforms of public services and changes in policy– for example changes to infrastructure, transport and planning and potential structural changes;
 - The ongoing need to support post-Covid recovery and adjustment, both in our services and for society and the economy, against a backdrop of residual risk of further waves of infection and the potential need for an ongoing vaccination programme; and
 - Reviewing the way that we work and accelerating our planned changes to move towards a more hybrid way of working, and evolving our working practices to ensure we have modern, flexible workspaces and workstyles as part of the Transforming East Herts Programme.
- The council’s business and financial planning is underpinned by the Corporate Plan and its four priorities, which provide a clear focus for decisions about spending and savings and direct activity across the Council. The four priorities are:
 - Sustainability at the heart of everything we do;
 - Enabling our communities;
 - Encouraging economic growth; and
 - Digital by default.
 - Officers will continue to explore options to further reduce net cost to meet the savings target for submission to the Executive. This will include examining non-statutory service provision levels and also reviewing and benchmarking contracts to ensure the prices remain competitive. A recent review of the office furniture contract resulted in an indicative 68% saving by switching to an alternative framework. A procurement strategy and indicative procurement timeline both featured in the improvements identified in the Annual Governance Statement endorsed by Audit & Governance Committee.

Update on current position

- Rent payments on investment properties have no significant defaults to date. Rent reductions have been agreed for 2 tenants in Charringtons but this has to set against compensation that would have been payable when we need to move tenants out for handover for the Old River Lane regeneration as we have included appropriate break clauses as part of the new rent agreement.
- Government has committed to the income compensation scheme for the first quarter of 2021/2 and it is possible that they would extend the scheme to cover periods of restrictions beyond quarter 1.
- Savings plans for 2021/22 is on target with garden waste sign up being on budget assumption with a high on-line sign up of 92.5% and direct debit payments at 82%
- Corporate policy on charging developed to ensure consistency across charges – there have been a number of below cost charges agreed with no clear policy or justification in the past that are having to be dealt with as part of aligning charges with North Herts for joint commercial waste services. Due for approval by Executive in November.
- Grange Paddocks construction completing October 2021 and Northgate End construction work is substantially complete.
- Hartham contract awarded and works commenced late March.
- Old River Lane /Arts Centre change in scope progressing and approved by Council in March alongside the business plan. Development Agreement and Development Management Agreement draft to be agreed with s.151 officer and monitoring officer input.
- Hertford Theatre delayed due to non-award of contract as tendered prices too high.
- All major capital projects are at risk of price increases as a result of the combined impact of COVID / BREXIT related inflationary pressures. In addition to the increasing cost of materials, there is a significant shortage of labour supply for the construction and M&E industries, which is in turn pushing up the price of labour. This is a national issue.
- The national shortage of HGV drivers is driving up pay and this will lead to pressures on the cost of the waste contract as well as the cost and delivery of building materials.

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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
2	B 3	Corporate Governance and external political environment	<p>Brexit trade deal risks</p> <p>Planning Policy Changes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential project delays due to labour shortages or materials imports, or increased project costs due to tariffs or supply chain difficulties. • Non-Tariff barriers leading to supply chain price increases and longer replenishment times. Some UK businesses may relocate to the EU making current domestic supplies into imports. • Government policy changes to introduce development zones, ends s.106 and CIL for government infrastructure levy • Government impose unitary authorities and reduce exchequer grants by savings made 	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address issues of labour shortage with contractors at progress meetings. Raise skills shortages at the LEP to ensure we train young people. • Consider forward funding stockpile of materials subject to delays as part of contract mobilisation • Consider risks to supply chain as part of procurement exercises • Both officers and Members are engaged in networking and lobbying to seek to influence change and to gain early indications of new policies • Both officers and Members are engaged in Herts Growth Board

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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
			<p>Local government reorganisation / Devolution</p> <p>Climate Change / Zero Carbon / Build Back Greener</p> <p>Changes to local taxation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District required to be carbon neutral from 2030 and Government targets set with fines for non-achievement • Business Rates and or Council Tax replaced with Land Value Tax or Local Income Tax • Potential protests and non-payment campaigns • Measure may end land banking with developers commencing on multiple sites to build out permissions and avoid LVT • Uncertainty as to tax yields and redistribution mechanisms cause difficulties budgeting • Change in leadership politically sets radically 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work underway to progress carbon reduction and also exploring potential investments that support this aim but would also produce income for the council in the medium term. • Both officers and Members are engaged in networking and lobbying to seek to influence change and to gain early indications of new policies. • LVT is in operation in Denmark, Estonia and Latvia and there are suggested routes to implementation already published. Local Income Tax would require key data from HMRC before implications could be understood. • Corporate Plan process • Member induction and training

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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
			<p>Leadership / Management change</p> <p>Recession leading to increase in unemployment, business failure; low business growth and commercial property values decreasing significantly.</p>	<p>different policy agenda and tone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in Leadership Team structure • Unemployment. • Empty properties / shops. • Lower rental income from council property portfolio. • Increased demand on council services. • Reduction in Council Tax Base due to LCTSS being a discount. • Reduction in Business Rates income to the safety net level 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of conduct • Monitoring Officer/ s.151 officer • HR policies • Estimates of workload v capacity • Corporate Plan process • European Regional Development Fund / MHCLG project to support businesses with advice and support on growing. Ware and Bishop's Stortford Launchpad to be grown. • COVID support grants and business rates reliefs for 2020/21 and 2021/22 to support businesses through the pandemic. • Broxbourne BC and CVS digital / employment skills support

Update on current position

2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite challenges from the pandemic, Brexit and global supply issues Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre is due to open on time and within budget in October 2021. Costs of other key capital projects (Hartham, Northgate End and
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Update on current position

- ORL, Hertford Theatre) are being kept under constant review
- Number of residents with an East Herts address applying for Settled Status exceeded 7,000 (well above the estimated 4000)
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 - Officers are considering the lessons from how the Council has been able to operate during the pandemic within the Transforming East Herts Programme. It is evident that working from home is possible on a greater scale and this will have implications for our future accommodation needs and reduce travel leading to lower carbon emissions
 - Council is actively targeting food waste reduction. The Climate Change Committee say that for the UK's next carbon budget food waste must be reduced by 75% i.e. the vast majority of carbon emissions are from the production and transportation of food that is wasted. The UN report on food waste said that almost a billion tons of food was wasted and led to carbon emissions that if it were a country, would be third behind the USA and China
 - 2 stage approach to mitigating recession following COVID-19: In the first lockdown the council supported over 2,200 businesses with £30m of government funded grants and £18m of reliefs. A further £6.8m has been paid out since November through different government grant schemes and a further 600 businesses have benefitted on top of the 2,200 above.
 - £132,000 of RHSS funding has been allocated to support safe re-opening of High Streets and has covered work such as traffic management on high streets to encourage social distancing. Due to the second national lockdown retail businesses are again facing significant challenges and our most recent response has been to introduce a shop local campaign focused on on-line buying and takeaways / click and collect services. The funding was also used to purchase hand sanitisers in town centres and planters to replace temporary traffic barriers. A second round of this funding has also been allocated to East Herts for the 2021/ 22 year. All 5 towns and 6 parish councils have received funding to undertake further cleaning, advertising and promotion of village/ town centres and provide additional seating
 - A new grant scheme was also launched in August aimed at encouraging new businesses to open up premises (or take on empty premises) in the district. As at the end of September 5 organisations have been tentatively awarded a grant.
 - Council also commissioned a new service with Broxbourne Borough Council and the CVS to support newly

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Update on current position

		unemployed residents get back into work by supporting them with digital skills such as interviewing over Zoom and MS Teams. Service launched 5th October 2020. As at 31 March 2021, just 41 individuals had made use of the scheme however in the last 6 months there have been over 150 referrals, possibly linked to the winding down of furlough
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3	A 3	Performance, resilience and security of IT systems	<p>Data and/or information lost causing breach of Data Protection Act</p> <p>Cyber-attack results in total loss of data and systems</p> <p>Investment in ICT does not result in savings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial fine from Information Commissioner • Major media engagement • Reputational damage • Disruption to services potentially long-running • Inability to carry out enforcement as no records to check against • Resources devoted to recovery moved off to assist police investigation delaying recovery • Major media engagement • Reputational damage • Council becomes financially unsustainable 	Deputy Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Virtual Desktop configuration prevents download of data to local storage devices • Network firewall and security systems tested and monitored • Staff training • Confidential waste shredded • Massive reductions in printing since pandemic • Projects to include estimated benefits and monitored through benefits realisation reports. The investment requirements are tried and tested systems that have resulted in savings elsewhere.

Update on current position

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- January's report showed that:
 - 3,298 spam emails were blocked out of 248,920 received.
 - 19 impersonation attempts were blocked.
 - 20 emails containing malware were blocked.
- A dedicated GDPR/Data Protection Officer has been recruited and has taken up the post.
- Recent weekend shutdowns have enabled the disabling of old technology that was no longer supported or updated. New firewalls and switches have been installed and although slightly behind due to resourcing issues, all major projects are progressing well.
- As the ICT upgrade projects progress there have been several incidents that have resulted in the loss of IT for staff and members. A day and a half of productivity was lost in June. The issue was identified and rectified but this has further exposed how our aging infrastructure is starting to impact on the organisation. A further 3 days was lost in September but the council successfully migrated to the new network. This new network has eliminated 99% of the single points of failure we had on the old network. We can now communicate across the network using more connections so traffic can be routed around problems, if they occur, and it is connected to the internet via 2 fibre cables and the security of the microwave link between the Stevenage data centres. This means that the likelihood and frequency of ICT outages should now be low. It also means that we have cleared a major hurdle in the way of starting to deploy the latest version of VMWare Horizon virtual desktops with Windows 10 and Microsoft 365.
- SBC (IT Shared partner) are developing a scope to be agreed by both parties for a review to be undertaken at the request of the respective council leaders, to provide assurance going forward and SOCITM has been appointed. In addition additional resourcing is being investigated to see if the replacement programme can be accelerated.
- The Shared Internal Audit Service is undertaking an audit of data security and cyber risk.
- A new interim ICT Partnership Manager came into post during August and is making changes in project delivery arrangements and major incident protocols.
- The cyber insurance market has contracted significantly and cover may prove difficult to procure when insurance contracts are tendered in spring 2022, or prohibitively expensive. Scoping exercise with IT proposed to enable council to obtain our broker's view on the prospects of securing cover.

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Update on current position	

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4	B 2	Staff capacity and skills to deliver services	<p>Loss of key staff</p> <p>Staff capacity unable to deliver projects</p> <p>Unable to recruit to key posts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to Council services • Poor customer service • Internal control or governance failure • Reputation damaged in the media • Staff cannot undertake level or volume of work to meet all priorities • Council does not deliver performance expectations • Opportunities lost to improve outcomes • Partners lose confidence in ability to deliver • Public lose confidence in ability to deliver • Disruption to Council services • Poor customer service • Internal control or governance failure • Reputation damaged in the media • Disruption to Council 	Head of Human Resources and Org Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff development including the on-line learning pool • Succession planning for key staff within Services • Use of flexible retirement to ensure continuity of experienced staff whilst bringing on staff into roles • Prioritisation of work through the Corporate Plan and Executive Members • Major projects taken forward with corporate project management standards via the Major Projects Team • Market supplements where appropriate • Selective use of external resources and contingent labour through neutral vendor to drive down costs. • Internal communications emphasising welfare and mental health • Contingency planning

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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
			Industrial action	services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor customer service • Non-delivery of projects 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency planning

Update on current position

4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of leavers in Q4 did increase and it remains challenging to recruit senior planning officers especially as agency terms are more favourable than direct salaries, the service is being restructured in 21-22 to try to improve the structure and create more opportunities for growth and retention (Golden Hellos are already used where appropriate as is 100% funding for qualifications. The service has now recruited a second service manager and created some team leader roles which have been filled and vacancies are being filled more often first time. The area remains a priority for grow your own through apprentice and career graded posts and these are used but currently there is not a valid apprentice framework to utilise. • In Q1 of the 21/22 annual period turnover increased: There were 12 leavers in Quarter 1 (April – June 2021) giving a turnover rate for the quarter of 3.6%. Based on the number of leavers so far in Quarter 1, it is estimated that the turnover rate for the annual period 2021/22 will be 14.5%. This is higher than the annual projections in the same quarter in the previous year (4.8% in Quarter 1 in 2020/21 which was impacted by the pandemic) and it is higher than the local government average currently available (14% for 2018/19 for Local Authority districts in the UK). With the exception of 2020/21, historically turnover in Quarter 1 every year has been high (26.3% in 2018/19, 16.4% in 2019/20) and then it gradually decreases throughout the rest of the year. It is anticipated that turnover for 2021/22 will follow the same pattern. The increase has been reported to LT and HRC who have asked that it is monitored, looking at the reasons for leaving we have seen an increase in retirements and lifestyle changes, delayed leaving impacted by the pandemic. • In line with savings required all recruitment must be approved by Leadership Team with enhanced justification and a requirement to explore either restructures or process changes to eliminate the need for the post. • The transformation programme also includes service reviews aimed at improving structure and ways of working i.e.
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Update on current position

to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

- The transformation programme includes a Modern Workforce Development strand which includes organisation development to support transformation (e.g. staff briefings, resilience training, six sigma training etc.), new staff and management competencies, a revised PDR, development to improve our one team culture as well as a blended work offer.
- The Blended Work Offer has been shared with staff, the trials have worked well and from 1/11/2021 staff who wish to and their role allows will be working up to 50% at home and 50% in the office. There will be rota based system continuing in the shared Revenues and Benefits service where staff will continue with higher levels of home working in line with the shared service and potential growth.
- The temporary labour supply arrangement went live in April 2020 which has reduced fees paid to agencies and ensures a wider pool of potential candidates. This is working fairly well with issues resolved with Matrix where they arise to improve the pooling.
- The Indeed EHC branded website is working ok but has not been as successful as hoped and is being replaced with a multi-site package which will use several of the top recruitment platforms as well as indeed. This is being implemented through an Applicant Tracking System (ATS) which will include an improved online application form, online shortlisting, name blind shortlisting and improve our presence online. The new system will also aid onboarding again improving the candidate/new starter experience.
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- Ongoing work has continued with the Communications team and HR to improve the online presence and promote the employer brand further. Case studies are being developed to support welcoming diversity.
- Career graded posts are continuing to be used and proving successful for hard to recruit posts with all four Lawyer roles successfully filled. All four have started in post which is already really improving the legal capacity of EHC.
- A review of apprentices is continuing to both manage costs and support succession. This has been slowed by the pandemic, but we now recruiting into customer services as this allows progression into a range of services. We are awaiting a new planner framework and will use this to bring further planning apprentices.
- Once completed, Northgate End, Hertford Theatre and Old River Lane sites will all require IT and Facilities Management support over extended operating hours.

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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
5	C 4	Poor performance or failure of key partner or contractor	<p>Poor performance or failure of key partner or contractor</p> <p>Failure to mobilise major outsourced contracts properly and/or on time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to all Council services • Additional costs resulting from response • Demand to partner organisations to provide mutual aid to support our response • Cost and time involved in unplanned procurement exercises • Major media engagement • Reputational damage • Disruption to council services • Damage to relations with outsourcing partner and potential damages claim • Major media engagement • Reputational damage 	Head of Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of contractor failure increased due to COVID. Regular discussions are continuing with contractors and key third sector partners to ensure no failures in delivery particularly during the pandemic • Credit risk scores are obtained for major contractors during the operation of the contract and particular attention is paid to trade news concerning contractors' financial health. • Offer of open book accounting to examine any potential cost increases as a result of changing circumstances. • Waste-related business continuity plans are also regularly reviewed. Brexit restrictions and the closure

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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
						of Asian export markets will impact on the sale of materials and income may cease and costs may increase. Talks are ongoing with other Hertfordshire authorities to determine alternative recycling operators. The council is investigating a circular economy option for the plastics waste stream in particular.

Update on current position

5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of business failure has increased due to COVID. Business continuity plans refreshed and regular dialogue maintained with contractors who have been informed the council would look sympathetically at cost increases provided the council was told in advance and the contractor undertook to use reasonable endeavours to resolve cost pressures themselves utilising furlough and other central government support. • Successful bid to the National Leisure Recovery Fund in partnership with SLM to support costs whilst reopening with reduced activities and reduced class sizes to maintain social distancing. • Contingency plans to step in should contractors fail. Principal route will be to use a TEKAL company to provide the service pending retendering as the company vehicle preserves the private sector T&Cs of employment. • Council has and is prepared to offer loans to help contractors with cash flow, subject to an assessment that they are a going concern • Requirement for higher recycled packaging content has caused some plastic materials prices to increase.
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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
6	C 3	Judicial Review and or major legal challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council loses case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council policies may no longer be fit for purpose • Unregulated activity until soundly based policy put in place • Large costs award against Council • Reputational damage • Major media engagement • Monitoring Officer and/or s.151 officer issues Report in the Public Interest • Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities intervention • Potential requirement to repeat procurement exercise and compensate unsuccessful bidders in first exercise 	Head of Legal and Democratic Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Executive, Committee and Council reports require sign off by legal and finance to ensure compliance with budget and policy framework and current legislation. • List of policies maintained with review dates. • Information Governance function strengthened to ensure compliance with data protection. • Policies should be backed by evidence and Leadership Team consideration involves constructive challenge as well as formal Monitoring Officer and s.151 officer.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional and or abortive costs 		

Update on current position

6				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All four new solicitors are now in post. The Contracts Lawyer, who started in March 2021, has been advising on the Council's major projects, allowing for much greater control. The Council's Information Governance and Data Protection Manager who started at the beginning of 2021, has undertaken a great deal of work with regards data mapping and updating the Council's policies, providing the Council with greater resilience against data breaches. Work being outsourced has more or less ceased, meaning that, where legal advice is required, East Herts Legal Team are now consulted throughout, reducing the risk of problems arising further down the line. 		
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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
7	A 1	District Plan	Failure to refresh District Plan to timescales and /or refreshed District Plan found to be unsound at examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning becomes developer led rather than planning policy led through 5 year land supply test Additional costs to redo work Additional costs of planning appeals and 	Head of Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence based planning policy decisions Strong focus on Member, Parish, partner and community buy-in

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				<p>possible judicial reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reputational damage • Loss of affordable housing and S.106 / community infrastructure levy benefits • Failure to meet 5 year Housing Land Supply requirements • Possible intervention by MHCLG 		

Update on current position

7				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Plan was adopted in October 2018 following a successful examination in public. • Planning in East Herts is therefore 'plan-led' rather than 'developer-led'. • The majority of strategic sites now have an agreed Masterplan. • Following the Housing Delivery Test results in January, the Council has maintained the minimum 5% buffer and therefore can demonstrate a five year land supply in excess of 6 years. • The Council has also continued its trend of annual improvements on the Housing Delivery Test, this year being able to demonstrate a 104% delivery rate meaning that the Council is meeting its housing need and addressing the undersupply of previous years as well. • A total of 994 dwellings were completed in 2020/21. Of these, 326 were affordable homes which represents 32.8% of all completed dwellings in the district. • To be effective plans need to be kept up-to-date. The National Planning Policy Framework states policies in local plans, should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every 5 years, and should then be 		
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Update on current position

[updated as necessary](#). Officers are currently considering whether a review of the District Plan is required.

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8	A 4	Climate change	<p>Severe Weather causing major incident (includes flood, wind, snow, cold and heat)</p> <p>Drought</p> <p>Weather extremes require substantial retrofit costs for asset adaptations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to Council services as staff diverted to response • Additional costs of response • Service changes required if long recovery phase • Service change required to adapt e.g. heatwave early day starts • Major media engagement • Disruption to some services through water restrictions • Additional costs of support to vulnerable service users • Public health issues • Non-availability of capital resources may cause working conditions on some days to be unbearable. • Instances of abandoning assets where hold the 	Head of Housing & Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Continuity Plan Severe Weather section • Emergency Plan including specific response plans to flooding etc. • Health and Safety Policy details severe weather response • Council reducing carbon footprint for the district • Emergency Plan • Business continuity plan • Council reducing carbon footprint for the district • New modern workspace work stream of the Transformation Programme will address climate change issues in the design

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				line defences against floods no longer viable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing attacks by non-native species causing biodiversity loss Increased costs arising from new operating requirements, e.g. sustained +30 degree heat requires refuse freighter insides to be degreased and jetted out regularly to prevent oils and fats combusting 		

Update on current position

8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change motion agreed July 2019. Multi-agency environmental and climate change forum continues. Energy efficiency modifications to key existing buildings and new electricity contract is from renewable sources. Review underway of motor fleet with extended use of e-vehicles. Carbon footprint reducing as a consequence of pandemic and homeworking. Future agile working will support. Food waste minimisation campaign to reduce carbon footprint by food being wasted as well as the disposal route. List of achievements posted on website at https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/about-east-herts-0/environmental-sustainability/sustainability-get-involved. Training commenced for officers. Attended by 101 employees to date. Clean Air Day campaign held.
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Update on current position

- Engagement with insurers over design / materials for new buildings. Use of sustainable materials and modern methods of construction proving problematic. Insurers want more emphasis on property protection (in addition to life saving standards). Major developments are also situated in or adjacent to flood zones.

No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
9	A 1	Child / Vulnerable Adult Protection	Child / Vulnerable Adult protection failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible legal action for damages • Possible prosecution • Major media engagement • Reputational damage 	Head of Housing & Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding policy • Annual training for staff and Members

Update on current position

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| 9 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of Members have received safeguarding training or briefings. • Officer training on safeguarding annually. Targeted training took place for 10 officers in quarter one with 40 booked to future sessions. Further training being provided to Community Safety Partnership Board and Joint Advisory Group Partners. • Quarterly safeguarding report submitted to Leadership Team. • Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board self-assessment complete. • Domestic Abuse Policy will be considered by HR committee in November. |
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East Herts Council Corporate Risk Register - 2021/22 quarter two

No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
10	A 2	Equalities	Council found to discriminated against individuals or communities with protected characteristics OR council has made a decision without considering equalities and diversity implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible legal action for damages • Possible enquiry and report by Equalities & Human Rights Commission • Major media engagement • Reputational damage 	Head of Comms, Policy & Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Herts into a shared service for equalities and diversity support with HCC in November 2020. • New strategy being developed to address challenges and embed equalities and diversity in decision making.

Update on current position

10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New strategy was approved by Council on 28 July. Since then significant work has been undertaken on training staff on the equalities impact assessment process and forming a staff equalities group
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No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
11	B 2	Internal control	Failure of internal control or unethical behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified accounts • Possible Police involvement if fraud involved • Major media engagement • Reputational damage • Increased costs as a 	Head of Strategic Finance and Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key reconciliations carried out regularly. • Internal audit work planned and undertaken on key areas. • Assurance Mapping • Electronic workflow where controls much harder to

East Herts Council Corporate Risk Register - 2021/22 quarter two

No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
				result of loss or fine or compensation payments		circumvent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separation of duties appropriate to the staffing numbers

Update on current position

11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audits remain mostly on track and there is sufficient audit scope for an assurance opinion to be given Assurance Mapping approach to be introduced which will show visually where assurance is gained and also identifies duplications and unnecessary steps which will inform officers undertaking lean process reviews and help Audit & Governance Committee to see where there are risks and then internal audit resources can be directed there. Full suite of updated anti-fraud and corruption policies to be submitted to Leadership Team in October and Audit and Governance Committee in November 2021. Intranet and website content to be updated once agreed. The new policies will be publicised to all employees. The Shared Anti-Fraud Service will meet with teams to provide training and increase awareness, starting with Parking (blue badge misuse), Licensing and Housing from October 2021.
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East Herts Council Corporate Risk Register - 2021/22 quarter two

No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
12	A 4	Outbreak of disease in humans	Pandemic and/or Public Health Emergency Declared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of staff and/or key skills due to illness and related absenteeism • Requirement to enable entire workforce to work from home • Requirement for Council and Committees to meet via video conference • Loss of income/additional costs • Loss of essential services /utilities/ suppliers • Demand from partner organisations to provide staff and other resources to support their response • Major media engagement • Disruption to all Council services • Increased risk of fraud from support programmes 	Head of Housing and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Continuity Plan • Emergency Plan • Dynamic risk assessments and keeping office open and COVID secure in line with government guidance. • Agile working introduced and scaled up to ensure social distancing • Fraud alerts on pandemic circulated by SAFS

East Herts Council Corporate Risk Register – 2021/22 quarter two

Update on current position

12

- Updates on financial compensation are included under Risk 1
- Updates on recovery work on supporting the local economy are detailed under Risk 2
- Alternative working methods instigated as a result of Covid 19 including home working and IT communications solutions (Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp and the like)
- Blended working arrangements to commence autumn 2021 with staff working 50% at the office and 50% from home.
- Detailed, up-to-date risk assessments in place including frequent Covid self-testing
- Live Well, Work Well programme amended to incorporate greater emphasis on staff mental health
- Joined up working with key partners, notably HCC and the police, to ensure coherent and planned use of financial and staff resources, for example Covid marshals and joint visits/advice/enforcement actions re: businesses. (Covid marshal scheme extended during quarter one.) Shop safe, shop local campaign held.
- Restart grants for businesses and community covid recovery grant schemes opened.
- Public facing recovery plan published in April.
- In-person Member meetings resumed.

East Herts Council Corporate Risk Register – 2021/22 quarter two

No	Score	Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk owner	Mitigation / control
13	A 1	Business Continuity Plan / Emergency Plan	Major Incident Occurs Plan fails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of essential services / utilities/ suppliers • Demand from partner organisations to provide staff and other resources to support their response • Major media engagement • Disruption to all Council services • Unable to support partner organisations to provide staff and other resources to support their response • Possible legal action or public inquiry 	Head of Housing & Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Plan Major Incident protocols • Business Continuity Plan • Keep plans under review every 6 month and keep evidence. • Review of response after every incident • Training for staff in EP roles • Regular exercises once a quarter • Emergency and Resilience work provided through Hertfordshire County Council

Update on current position

13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal business continuity and emergency planning activities have continued during the pandemic • Mutual aid was provided to the NHS to support staff shortages as well as supporting testing and vaccination • Desk top exercise accessing plans and refresh of contact lists undertaken • Communications test undertaken from County to Districts to check notification cascade. • Review of business continuity plan to commence in quarter two. • Review of IT Disaster Recovery Plan to take place.
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East Herts Council Corporate Risk Register – 2021/22 quarter two

	Description	Likelihood of occurrence	Probability of occurrence	
Likelihood	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	