



# NORWICH City Council

**Committee name:** Cabinet

**Committee date:** 13/09/2023

**Report title:** Q1 2023/24 Risk register update

**Portfolio:** Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

**Report from:** Interim S151 Officer

**Wards:** All wards

## OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

### Purpose

This report provides an update to the council's corporate risk register based on the position for quarter one (June 2023)

### Recommendation:

It is recommended that cabinet notes the identified risks and the direction of travel.

### Policy framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report meets the Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city corporate priority.

## **Introduction and background**

1. Heads of Service and other risk owners were asked to update their directorate and corporate registers to reflect the position at the end of quarter 1 (June 2023). The current Corporate Risk Register summary is shown at Appendix A.
2. There are three risks contained within the exempt Appendix.
3. Between Q4 (2022/23) and Q1 2023/24 most risks are static although one is improving. Subsequent to the Q1 position the risks associated with not addressing the Natural England advice on nutrient neutrality (CORP 18) would appear to have been overtaken by events with the government announcing its intention to legislate in the forthcoming Levelling up Bill for this guidance to no longer be mandatory. The progress of this legislation will be kept under review to ensure that any residual risks are fully mitigated.
4. One previously red rated risk (CORP 14) has now reduced to the point that it is now amber rated. This reflects the expectation that improvements in housing compliance have been maintained. Similarly, the work continues to review the financial health of the council's suppliers with any concerns being escalated for appropriate action.
5. There remain a small number of corporate risks (4) which have been rated as red and are also static indicating that specific consideration needs to be considered to take actions which are intended to reduce the impact of the identified risk. Two of these red rated risks are shown in the exempt appendix.
6. A new corporate risk (CORP 24) has been added this quarter: The financial risk around temporary and supported accommodation where there is a loss of housing benefit subsidy. A project group has been set up and is looking at the options for providing alternative accommodation where the housing benefit subsidy rate is higher taking into account the needs of the residents.
7. The Council will examine as to whether CORP23: Impact of economic downturn on key council suppliers needs to remain on the corporate risk register. It was only retained due to the overall weak economic performance of the economy.

## **Consultation**

8. No additional consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of this report. However, consideration and a detailed review of the corporate risk register and supporting information is also undertaken by the audit committee; this will take place at the next available opportunity and any feedback will be reported to an appropriate future meeting of Cabinet.

## **Implications**

### **Financial and resources**

9. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and budget.
10. There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

## Legal

11. Identification and consideration of its corporate risks is an important governance function of the cabinet to ensure that appropriate action is being taken to ensure the Council takes lawful decisions and mitigates exposure to risk. The audit committee also exercises similar oversight and collectively this is designed to ensure that the council understands and is in a position to respond to risks as they arise.

## Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	This report does not have direct implications for equality and diversity. Where risks are identified that impact this area, the mitigations will include consideration of the statutory requirements
Health, Social and Economic Impact	This report does not have direct health, social or economic implications. Where risks are identified that impact this area, the mitigations will include consideration of the statutory requirements
Crime and Disorder	This report does not have direct implications for crime and disorder. Where risks are identified that impact this area, the mitigations will include consideration of the statutory requirements
Children and Adults Safeguarding	This report does not have direct safeguarding implications. Where risks are identified that impact this area, the mitigations will include consideration of the statutory requirements
Environmental Impact	This report does not have direct environmental implications. Where risks are identified that impact this area, the mitigations will include consideration of the statutory requirements

## Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
Specific risk management activities and detailed consideration of the corporate risk register is included within this report.	Failure to manage risks appropriately could have financial reputational or other consequences	Risk owners are required to implement controls to mitigate risks and update these regularly.

## Other options considered

12. As this report is for information and discussion no other options have been considered.

## Reasons for the decision/recommendation

13. The report gives the cabinet the opportunity to be aware of the currently identified corporate risks and comment on any mitigating actions.

**Background papers: None**

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Summary Corporate Risk Register

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Risk (inc reference)	Directorate	Q4 2022/23		Q1 2023/24		Current direction	Last Review Date
		Residual risk score	Target risk score	Residual risk score	Target risk score		
CORP01 Council Funding Medium – Long Term	Exec Dir – Corporate & Commercial Services	12	8	12	8	Static	04/08/2023
CORP03 Health & safety in the workplace	Exec Dir – Development & City Services	12	8	12	8	Static	12/07/2023
CORP06 Failure to respond to a critical, business continuity or emergency planning event	Chief Executive	12	6	12	6	Static	12/07/2023
CORP07 Cyber security	Exec Dir – Community Services	15	15	15	15	Static	09/08/2023
CORP09 Failure to fulfil statutory or legislative responsibilities – safeguarding	Exec Dir – Community Services	15	12	15	12	Static	30/06/2023
CORP12 Contract management – governance	Exec Dir – Corporate & Commercial Services	9	6	9	6	Static	07/07/2023
CORP14 Health and safety and compliance in council homes and buildings	Exec Dir – Community Services	20	4	15	4	Improving	24/07/2024
CORP15 Failure to draw down £15m of Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) money previously secured from Homes England (HE) to assist with the delivery of Anglia Square.	Exec Dir – Development & City Services	12	8	12	8	Static	12/07/2023
CORP17 Failure to deliver acceptable levels of performance in regulatory services	Exec Dir – Development & City Services	12	8	12	8	Static	12/07/2023
CORP18 Failure to address Natural England advice on Nutrient Neutrality (NN)	Exec Dir – Development & City Services	15	10	15	10	Static	12/07/2023
CORP19 Housing regulation	Exec Dir – Community Services	12	9	12	9	Static	24/07/2023
CORP20 Cost of living (COL) crisis has a negative impact on the city and the council	Exec Dir – Community Services	20	12	20	12	Static	13/07/2023
CORP21 Climate Change risk to Council and its residents	Exec Dir – Community Services	16	12	16	12	Static	30/06/2023
CORP23 Impact of economic downturn on key council suppliers	Exec Dir – Corporate & Commercial Services	16	8	12	8	Static	07/07/2023
CORP24 Temporary and Supported Accommodation – Reducing the Housing Benefit Subsidy gap	Exec Dir – Housing & Community Safety	N/A	N/A	15	12	Static	04/07/2023