



NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Cabinet

Committee date: 13/11/2024

Report title: Corporate Risk Register 2024/25 – Quarter 2

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for an open and modern council

Report from: Interim Chief Finance 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 two (September 2024)

Recommendation:

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

Policy framework

The Council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- A prosperous Norwich.
- A fairer Norwich.
- A climate responsive Norwich.
- A future-proof Norwich.
- An open and modern council.

This report meets the “An open and modern council” 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 two (September 2024). Directorate level risks are reviewed by the relevant management team and are escalated to the Corporate Risk Register, for consideration by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) where the residual risk exposure supports that action.
2. The Corporate Risk Register is shown at Appendix A with a report included on the exempt agenda. The position at the end of quarter one (up to 30 June) was reported to Cabinet in September. There have not been significant changes in the Council's risk profile at the end of this quarter.
3. The environment in which the council operates remains relatively high risk as the financial environment is challenging both in terms of the economic and the funding position. The council approved its main budget and council tax setting reports at Full Council in February. Financial planning and the budget setting process for the 2025/26 budget in progress.
4. Inflation has fallen from double digit levels and the latest CPI figures announced in October showed a surprise fall to 1.7% for the year to September 2024. This is the lowest rate of inflation for three and a half years and puts the rate of inflation below the Bank of England's target rate of 2%. Financial markets are also forecasting, on the back of the September inflation figures, a cut in the Bank of England interest base rate. Interest rates currently stand at 5%. Although there is currently better economic news, the lower inflation figures and potential interest rate cuts come off a prolonged period of high cost of living pressure placing demands on the council, its partners and residents. The General Election has led to the establishment of a new Government and it is expected that the Chancellors budget, due on 30th October, will set out plans for local government financing.
5. The relevant service leads have identified that corporate risk 28 (Failure to get acceptable cover for rebuild cost of the Halls, at acceptable cost, during the period of construction and refurbishment) has been downgraded and moved to the relevant Directorate risk register. The council continues to keep a watching brief on all key risk areas and as a result has added four new risks to the Corporate Risk register (two of which have been added to the exempt report). The Two new risks for this report are Corporate Risk 29 Contact centre staff risk and Corporate Risk 30 Recruitment.
6. The Council is also in the process of updating its risk management policy to ensure that risks are properly managed and that there is adequate guidance.

Consultation

7. There has been no specific consultation on these proposals.

Implications

Financial and resources

8. 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.

9. There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

Legal

10. 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	N/A
Health, Social and Economic Impact	N/A
Crime and Disorder	N/A
Children and Adults Safeguarding	N/A
Environmental Impact	N/A

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
The council is exposed to risks which need to be identified recorded and managed appropriately	Not managing risks appropriately exposes the council to a range of potential negative outcomes ranging from financial loss to impacts on its reputation.	The risk register provides a focus to consider risk management and in particular mitigations. Other broader mitigations such as insurances also support the council's management of risk.

Other options considered

11. As the report is primarily for information no other options have been considered.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

12. It is important for the Cabinet to understand the risks that the council is exposed to and the mitigations in place to minimise those risks to acceptable levels.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A Summary Risk Register

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Appendix A

Risk (inc reference)	Q1 2024/25		Q2 2024/25		Current direction	Last Review Date
	Residual risk score	Target risk score	Residual risk score	Target risk score		
CORP01 Council Funding Medium - Long Term	12	8	16	8	Worsening	11-Oct-24
CORP03 Health & safety in the workplace	12	8	12	8	Static	30-Sep-24
CORP06 Failure to respond to a critical, business continuity or emergency planning event	12	6	12	6	Static	30-Sep-24
CORP07 Cyber security	15	15	15	15	Static	15-Oct-24
CORP09 Failure to fulfil statutory or legislative responsibilities - safeguarding	15	12	15	12	Static	3-Oct-24
CORP12 Contract management - governance	6	4	6	4	Static	11-Oct-24
CORP17 Failure to deliver acceptable levels of performance in regulatory services	12	8	12	8	Static	30-Sep-24
CORP18 Failure to address Natural England advice on Nutrient Neutrality (NN)	15	10	12	10	Improving	30-Sep-24
CORP20 Cost of living (COL) crisis has a negative impact on the city and the council	16	12	16	12	Static	8-Oct-24
CORP21 Climate Change risk to Council and its residents	16	12	20	15	Worsening	7-Oct-24
CORP23 Impact of economic downturn on key council suppliers	12	8	12	8	Static	15-Oct-24
CORP24 Temporary and Supported Accommodation - Reducing the Housing Benefit Subsidy gap	15	12	15	12	Static	3-Oct-24
CORP29 Contact centre staff risk	0	0	16	9	Static	8-Oct-24
CORP31 Recruitment	0	0	16	9	Static	11-Oct-24