

**Report for:
INFORMATION**

Item number:

Contains confidential or exempt information	Yes – Appendix A and Appendix C pursuant to paragraphs 3 & 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
Subject of report	Risk Management Performance Report – Quarter 4 2018/19
Responsible officer	Ross Brown, Chief Finance Officer Mike Pinder, Head of Audit & Investigations
Author	Ewan Taylor, Audit & Risk Manager, ext.9991 taylor@ealing.gov.uk
Portfolio	Cllr Bassam Mahfouz - Finance & Leisure
For consideration by	Audit Committee
Date to be considered	22 May 2019
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A
Affected Wards	All
Keywords/Index	Strategic Risk Management

Reason for report

This report provides Audit Committee with an update in respect of the review by Corporate Board of strategic risks facing the council as at the end of Q4, 2018/19

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee considers the current Strategic Risk Register (Appendix A) and provides comments to officers for their consideration.

2. Reason for recommendation and options considered

- 2.1 This is a periodic report to update Audit Committee on the strategic risks facing the council; no decision is required.

3. Key implications

3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017 require the council to maintain a robust, adequate and effective system of risk management in its delivery of core services. Operation of an effective and embedded risk management framework is an important element of such a system so that the council effectively discharges its corporate governance responsibilities.

3.1.2 Corporate Board is responsible for reviewing the Strategic Risk Register, ensuring that the management of risk continues to be within the council's risk appetite. Audit Committee is responsible for considering the effectiveness of the council's strategic risk management arrangements. The Strategic Risk Register was reviewed by Corporate Board on 20th February 2019.

3.2 Strategic Risk Register (SRR)

3.2.1 The council's strategic risks documented in the SRR are determined by Corporate Board, last reviewed on the 20th February and comprise of key inherent, transitory and emerging risks which either:

- significantly affect the council's ability to achieve the Borough's long-term strategic objectives and priorities which are set out in the Corporate Plan;
- are relevant and important to all or most of the council's services and functions;
- are external to the council but which have potential significant impacts on the Borough, or parts of the Borough, as a whole; or
- have potentially severe reputational consequences should they materialise.

3.2.2 In addition, the SRR will include any Directorate or Department risks that have a high residual risk rating (total risk score of 20 and above), but which are not already linked to, and part of, a strategic risk. There are no risks of this nature in the current SRR.

3.2.3 The current SRR contains 17 risks. The total number of risks remains the same, during the quarter.

3.2.4 The residual risk ratings are summarised below. There have been no changes to the ratings since the end of Q3 2018/19.

Table 1: Strategic Risks Residual Ratings

Residual Rating	Strategic Risks as at end of Q4 2018/19	Strategic Risks as at end of Q3 2018/19
High	2	2
Medium	12	12
Low	2	2
Emerging	1	1
Total	17	17

3.2.5 The strategic risk ISR0010 – Organisational resilience inability to provide critical council services in the event of significant disruption has been updated (page 4, of

the SRR), to reflect the current position. The Medium risk rating remains unchanged, until the ICT enhanced disaster recovery arrangements are fully in place. The new disaster recovery data centre is nearing completion and the indicative timeline for completion of works is October 2019.

3.2.6 The residual risk scores and Medium risk ratings of 11 of the remaining 14 strategic risks, (on pages 8 to 22 of the Register) are unchanged: In most cases, either:

- Actions are being taken by services to develop or enhance the control measures that mitigate the risks. Once implemented, these will have the effect of lowering the impact and likelihood risk scores; or
- Work within the Future Ealing programme is helping to introduce new mitigations to reduce the risks.
- In relation to Brexit, regular discussions are held at Corporate Board, there is also a Brexit working group in place, which is working to understand the potential impacts and to quantify, including from a risk management perspective.

3.2.7 In three instances, though the ongoing controls being exercised by the services do not mitigate the residual risk to a below Medium rating, no further cost effective enhancements to controls can be developed. In these circumstances, Corporate Board has previously agreed to tolerate the Medium level risk rating. The three risks are:

- ISR0004 (page 17), death, serious injury or abuse of a child or vulnerable adult in the care of Ealing Council;
- ISR0006 (page 19), persons within the Borough become radicalised and are attracted to recognised terrorist organisations and/or the Borough is affected by terrorist activities; and
- ISR0014 (page 13), a reduction in the supply and lack of availability of affordable housing in the Borough as a result of the implementation of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

4. Financial

4.1 A number of risks on the SRR have the potential for significant financial impact and this is articulated within each individual risk description and managed through the control measures which are in place and monitored by the control owners. All financial risks of a material or significant nature such as those set out in this report and appendices are either monitored through the regular Finance monitors to Corporate Board and Cabinet or considered as part of the Budget Strategy.

5. Legal

5.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017 require the council to maintain a robust, adequate and effective system of risk management in the delivery of its core services.

An embedded risk management culture and effective risk management processes support good governance, the council's delivery on its duty of care and successful delivery of the council's objectives

6. Value for money

6.1 Good risk management is a key contributor to successful delivery of the council's objectives protecting its assets and resources to deliver value for money

7. Risk management

7.1 Good risk management enables the council to optimise its opportunities and minimise the potential for adverse service, financial, legal or reputational outcomes in delivery of its strategic priorities and objectives

8. Community safety

8.1 Effective management of risk seeks to protect the council's assets and resources and the local community from harm

9. Links to the 3 Priorities for the Borough

9.1 The effective identification, assessment and management of risk is an important foundation to the successful achievement of strategic objectives in terms of managing resources effectively. Strategic risks affect all three priorities of the Long Term Plan meaning that embedded risk management is important to the council.

10. Equalities and community cohesion

10.1 No equality impact assessment has been undertaken as the report is for information and does not affect the general duties of the Equality Act 2010.

11. Staffing/workforce and accommodation implications:

11.1 None

12. Property and assets

12.1 None

13. Any other implications:

13.1 None

14. Consultation

14.1 Not applicable

15. Timetable for implementation

15.1 Not applicable

16. Appendices

- Appendix A: Q4 Strategic Risk Register (Confidential)
- Appendix B: Q4 Risk Heatmap
- Appendix C: Q4 Risk Matrix Score Definitions

17. Background Information

17.1 None

Consultation

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent to consultee	Date response received from consultee	Comments appear in paragraph:
Internal				
Ross Brown	Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer)			Throughout
Cllr Bassam Mahfouz	Portfolio holder – Finance & Leisure		For reference only	

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
For Information	No
Report no.: Report author and contact for queries: Ewan Taylor – Audit and Risk manager ext. 9991	