REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S RISK REGISTER 2020/2021

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report presents a six-month review of the Council's Risk Register (CRR) for 2020/2021 for Members' consideration.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The last update was presented to the Audit Committee in July 2020 when the updated 2020/2021 CRR was approved.

3 THE CORPORATE RISK REGISTER FOR 2020/2021

- 3.1 The summary 2020/2021 CRR is included at **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 All the key risks faced by the Council are presented, together with the controls in place to mitigate these risks and an assessment of whether each is considered High, Medium, or Low Risk. Each of the risks listed in the summary is supported by a fuller risk analysis that is available on request.
- 3.3 The CRR is supported by Service Area Risk Registers (SARRs) owned by each Assistant Director that identify the risks and mitigation controls which apply to each of the Council's service areas. They form part of a continual review and are monitored as part of the CRR review at Leadership Team meetings. The SARRs are available on request.
- 3.4 As part of the 2020/2021 Internal Audit programme, risk management is reviewed as is relevant to the audit being undertaken. Tests seek to confirm that controls are in place and operating well to mitigate risk.

4 Six Month Review of the Corporate Risk Register

- 4.1 The risks on the corporate risk register cover both day-to-day operations and the new projects and initiatives required to achieve the Business Plan.
- 4.2 All corporate risks continue to be reviewed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.3 Findings from internal audits will be reflected in the corporate and/or service risk registers as appropriate.
- 4.4 Since the 28 July 2020 Audit Committee, the Leadership Team has conducted a quarterly business review meeting which considered the summary corporate risk register, with a focus on High risks and Poor controls.
- 4.5 Risk 2 (Safeguarding), Risk 3a (Food Safety), Risk 3b (Health and Safety), Risk 7 (Stakeholders), Risk 10 (Inability to recruit/retain), Risk 11 (Partnerships), Risk 14 (ICT) and Risk 15 (GDPR) were reviewed by the Leadership Team in October 2020.

- 4.6 The following risk reviews did not result in any updates Risk 3a (Food Safety) and Risk 10 (Inability to recruit/retain). There were minor wording updates to the remaining risks under review. All corporate risks were reviewed at the July 2020 Audit Committee and therefore there have been minimal changes required since that date.
- 4.7 The remaining risks on the corporate risk register will be reviewed over the next six months along with emerging issues.

5 Areas with 'High' Residual Risk

- 5.1 At the 28 July 2020 Audit Committee, Members asked about the mitigation of risks with a 'High' residual risk rating, specifically Risk 9 (Balanced Budget) and Risk 10 (Inability to recruit/retain). In response, future Audit Committee risk reports will include a specific focus on these risks, as set out below.
- 5.2 Risk 3b (Health and Safety) remains High; progress has been made in terms of increasing controls in place including policies and procedures; however, further assurance is needed around consistent application across the Council.
- 5.3 Risk 9 (Balanced Budget) remains High. This risk was reclassified earlier in the year in light of the financial risks currently facing the Council, including COVID-19 pressures. These are common across most Local Authorities but will need to be actively managed and addressed by the Council as part of its budget setting and medium term financial strategy (MTFS) process for 2021/22 and beyond in order to ensure financial sustainability for the authority.
- 5.4 Risk 10 (Inability to recruit/retain) remains High, due to the underlying risks facing the Council as a small Council which has to compete with larger local authorities and the private sector to recruit and retain staff; however, measures are in place to manage this risk via the Council's People Plan and other mitigating actions, as detailed in the CRR.

6 STRATEGIC CROSS CUTTING ISSUES WITHIN THE CRR

- 6.1 The impact of the UK's transition from the European Union on 31 December and COVID-19 are not specifically listed as individual corporate risks since they are known issues which are being actively managed; however, specific areas of risk are reflected within the existing risks on the CRR as appropriate. These issues are closely monitored by the Strategic Director and the Emergency Planning Officer. Issues relating to the UK's exit from the European Union and COVID-19 are specifically dealt with by the Essex Resilience Forum of which the Council is an active member. Service Areas are being kept informed of the latest developments with updates included on relevant risk registers.
- 6.2 The EU Transition risk themes identified by the Essex Resilience Forum are being assessed for their potential impact on the Rochford District with the relevant risks updated as appropriate.

7 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 An emerging area for consideration is the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper. The latest informal update from government suggests that the White Paper will now be delayed to an unspecified date next year; however, work will continue to ensure an appropriate response can be provided when the White Paper is published. The CRR will be updated to reflect this work as it progresses.

8 WIDER RISK UPDATE

- 8.1 For each individual project, specific risk logs and actions are monitored within the project documentation. These will change as the projects evolve.
- 8.2 For each individual project, specific risk logs and actions are monitored within the project documentation. These will change as the projects evolve.
- 8.3 For each individual contract deemed Medium to High risk, specific risk logs and actions are monitored as part of the contract monitoring process. These will change as the projects evolve.
- 8.4 For each individual service area, risks and actions are monitored with formal reviews taking place every 6 months.

9 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Management of risk is fundamental to the sound operation of the Council. Failure to manage risk could have a significant impact on the Council's ability to correctly define its policies and strategies or deliver against its objectives.
- 9.2 The implementation and operation of the risk management framework will minimise risks and thus mitigate any potential strategic, operational, reputational, or regulatory consequences.
- 9.3 Failure to manage risk would also mean that the Council might face censure by its external auditors, or the potential for legal proceedings in the event of breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act or similar legislation.

10 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 All risk management activity is undertaken within existing and planned budgets.

11 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Council's risk management policy and framework will assist in meeting any specific and general legislative requirements to monitor and manage its risks.
- 11.2 No new formal delegations are created by the policy and framework.

12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed as no decision is being made.

13 RECOMMENDATION

13.1 It is proposed that the Committee RESOLVES

That the content of the corporate risk register for 2020/2021 be noted.



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Background Papers: -

None.

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

Corporate Risk Register 2020 / 21

Risk Assessment Options:

Quality of controls

Poor	indicates no controls in place or the few that are do not mitigate the risk.
Fair	indicates that some controls in place and some reduction in risk but still not adequate.
Good	indicates that controls in place are considered adequate and reduce the risk.
Excellent	indicates that effective controls are in place that reduces the risk considerably.

Review Frequency Options:

- Risks should be reviewed regularly (typically quarterly) by the Leadership Team and relevant service areas.
- Risk analyses should be updated accordingly with the full Risk Register revised at least bi-annually.



Part 1: Corporate Risks Dashboard

Part 1: Corporate Risks Dashboard					Do	tont	ial Ir	npac	oto							
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Corporate Risks	Safeguarding	Reputational Damage	Service Disruption	Impaired Performance	Ineffective partnerships	Health and Safety	Staff Morale	Missed Opportunities	Financial costs / losses	Asset loss or damage	Contract breaches	Ineffective leadership	External Intervention	Residual Likelihood	Residual Impact	Residual Risk
1 – We fail to deliver the objectives of the Council's Business Plan in terms of measurable outcomes.		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	2	3	М
2 – There is a failure to safeguard children and adults with care and support needs from abuse and / or neglect in line with the Council's legal responsibilities.	✓	✓					✓						✓	2	4	М
3a – There is a serious Food, Environmental or other incident for which the Council is culpable / liable.		✓	✓						✓	✓			✓	2	4	М
3b – There is a serious Health and Safety incident for which the Council is culpable / liable		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓			✓	3	4	Н
4 – We fail to respond to, or provide, relevant services in the event of an incident or disaster.		✓	✓										✓	3	3	М
5 – Council held data is lost, disclosed, or misused to detriment of individuals or organisations as result of inadequate protection.		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓		✓	3	3	М
7 – Failure to engage with stakeholders to understand and communicate what the Council should be trying to achieve.		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		2	3	М
8 – Failure to innovate and develop new ways of meeting customer needs and expectations.		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	2	3	М
9 – Failure to ensure financial sustainability for the Council. This includes the requirement to set a balanced budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to allow for the successful delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in its Business Plan, ensuring robust financial controls are in place to keep the budget on track in-year, and delivery of the Council's Capital Programme.		✓		√			✓	✓	✓		√	√	√	3	4	Н
10 – Inability to recruit, retain, develop, and manage appropriately skilled staff to deliver the Council's priority outcomes.	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓					4	4	Н
11 – Failure to enter into and manage effective partnerships for the delivery of services and outcomes.		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓			3	3	М
12 – The Council could fail to provide consistent Value for Money (VFM) across its existing services or when procuring new services.		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓			2	3	М
13 – Failure to ensure good governance of the Council's activities and delivery of its priority outcomes.		✓					✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	2	3	М
14 – Failure to ensure Rochford's ICT Estate supports achievement of Business Objectives.		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓			4	3	М
15 – The Council fails to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and is unable to demonstrate consistent application of information standards, controls, and statutory compliance.		✓					✓		✓					2	4	М

Part 2: Summary of Corporate Risks

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences	Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	Residu al Impact	al Risk
1 – We fail to deliver the objectives of the Council's Business Plan in terms of measurable outcomes.	Strategic Director	 Failure to refine strategic objectives to identify what is to be achieved Failure to articulate realistic business delivery plans Failure to allocate sufficient resource and manage key programmes of work effectively Failure to manage performance effectively 	 Business Plan agreed and supported by MTFS MTFS reflects COVID-19 Announcements Key programmes of work defined Plans identify key priorities for service delivery with COVID-19 impacts incorporated. Budgets set for work programmes and projects Project Plans with Progress Monitoring and Programme Office responsibilities Project Risk Registers 	Good	2	3	Med

2 – There is a failure to ensure the safeguarding of our children and adults	Safeguarding Lead Officer	•	Children or adults with care and support needs put at risk	•	Safeguarding Policy and Procedures	Good	2	4	Med	
in the district in line with the Council's legal responsibilities.	Lead Officer with support from the Deputy Lead Officer – Assistant Director – People and Communities	•	and support needs put at risk of abuse Children or adults with care and support needs suffer harm or abuse Staff at risk of false accusations Reputational damage Financial damage External intervention in the running of the Council as a result of safeguarding incidents	•	DBS checks in recruitment processes Attendance at safeguarding lead officers' network Attendance at multiagency South Essex Stay Safe Group Engagement with relevant subgroups of the Safeguarding Boards Dedicated Safeguarding Officer Project Team to achieve and maintain 90%+ compliance with the Essex Safeguarding Boards' set standards Designated Safeguarding Boards' set standards Designated Safeguarding Link Officers across the organisation Staff and Member training programmes Compliance with all relevant guidance					

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences	Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al		al Risk
3a – There is a serious Food, Environmental or other incident for which the Council is culpable / liable.	Assistant Director – People and Communities	 Failures within of our Food Safety Inspection regimes give rise to serious incidents with potentially fatal or life changing consequences Unacceptable Food Safety Return to FSA leads to service intervention Environmental pollution or nuisance issues are not addressed Corporate manslaughter charges 	 Annual Food Safety Plan Response procedures for Environmental Health complaints and reports Joint enforcement plans to be established for significant problem sites with RDC planners, the HSE and / or the Environment Agency 	Good	2	4	Med
3b – There is a serious Health and Safety incident for which the Council is culpable / liable.	Assistant Director – Assets and Commercial	 Failures within of our H&S regimes give rise to serious incidents with potentially fatal or life changing consequences Internally we could fail to meet obligations under the Health & Safety at Work and Fire Safety Acts and allied Regulations Corporate manslaughter charges 	 Annual Corporate Health and Safety Plan Internal Health and Safety Assessments and Reviews Health & Safety Co- ordinators (HSCs) / Fire Marshals (FM's) and First Aiders in place, supported with training Risk Assessments (for staff and contractors) and Safety Procedures 	Fair	3	4	High

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences		Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	Residu al Impact	al Risk
			•	Joint enforcement plans to be established for significant problem sites with RDC planners, the HSE and / or the Environment Agency				
			•	Health and Safety officer group				
			•	Health and Safety Officer attendance at service area meetings				
			•	COVID-19 Restoration Project				
4 – We fail to respond to, or provide, relevant services in the event of an	Assistant Director –	Loss of internal or public IT services	•	Attendance at Essex Resilience Forum	Good	3	3	Med
incident or disaster.	Assets and Commercial	nmercial - Loss or reduction in - Emergency - Susiness	Emergency Plans and Business Continuity Plans – regularly tested.					
		/ weather emergencies • Failure to respond to	•	Out of hours (OOH) response arrangements.				
		unauthorised or illegal incursions, encampments, or	•	IT restoration and cover facilities				
		events	•	Essex Countrywide Traveller Committee Partnership Agreement				
			•	IT incident reviews				

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences		Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al		al Risk
			•	Work conducted on joint plans with partners including COVID-19 impacts.				
5 – Council held data is lost, disclosed, or misused to detriment of individuals or organisations as result of inadequate protection.		 Key operational, commercial, or personal data is lost, disclosed, or misused. Increased risk of loss or disclosure when data is transferred between supply chain partners. Residents or customers interests put at risk Commercial or partnership relationships put at risk Consequential damage claims Information Commissioner investigations or penalties Reputational damage Incorrect decisions made as the result of poor quality, or poorly interpreted, data Failure to disclose appropriately where required 	•	Data Protection measures including ICT Security Policies & Procedures Data sharing protocols Annual review of systems and software required to ensure compliance by Government Connect Code of Connection (CoCo) Information Security Policies Compliance with the Transparency Code Data quality spot checks	Good	3	3	Med

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences	Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	Residu al Impact	al Risk
7 – Failure to engage with stakeholders to understand and communicate what the Council should be trying to achieve.	Strategic Director	 Council is unaware of stakeholder's concerns, needs or ambitions Lack of a clear vision for the future Failure to respond to the Devolution agenda 	 Consultation programmes involve Members, Residents, Businesses, Service Users, Parishes, Partners and Staff Communications initiatives including RDC website Networking meetings with partners organisations and businesses Equality and diversity impact assessments of service changes and other proposals 	Good	2	3	Med
8 – We fail to innovate and develop new ways of meeting customer needs and expectations.	Managing Director	 Council fails to respond to changing circumstances or needs in a sustainable way Services fail and / or are taken over Ineffective use or understanding of Council asset base 	 Transformation Projects including the Connect Programme Staff involvement in cultural change e.g. the "quick wins team" Training in Innovation 	Good	2	3	Med

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences		Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	Residu al Impact	al Risk
			•	Project Risk Registers and Equality Impact Assessments				
			•	Communications of savings and consequences				
			•	Lessons Learned used to inform the Connect Programme and the COVID-19 Restoration project				
9 – Failure to ensure financial sustainability for the Council. This includes the requirement to set a balanced budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to allow for the successful delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in its Business Plan, ensuring robust financial controls are in place to keep the budget on track inyear, and delivery of the Council's Capital Programme.	Section 151 Officer	 The Council is not able to set a balanced budget in line with its statutory duties The Council reserves and balance levels are unsustainable in the event of an unforeseen contingency requirement The Council cannot deliver its business plan objectives effectively due to financial constraints The council does not have sufficient cash flow to meet its contractual obligations 		Robust Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) process linked to Business Plan objectives Robust budgetary monitoring and control Quarterly financial monitoring reports to the Executive supplemented with additional information, such as COVID-19 announcements, to support decision making Communication of savings delivery and	Good	3	4	High

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences	Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	Residu al Impact	al Risk
			consequences to all stakeholders Monitoring and analysis of Government funding announcements for future financial planning including COVID-19 announcements Active treasury and cash flow management Twice-yearly cross-party Member Away days to discuss Financial Strategy and Corporate Matters				
10 – Inability to recruit retains, develop, and manage appropriately skilled staff to deliver the Council's priorities.	Managing Director	 With expertise vested in fewer individuals, the Council is at greater risk of losing key knowledge, expertise, or skill sets Increased vacancy rates and lost skills lead to operational pressures and ultimately to service failures Use of temporary staff or contractors leads to additional costs and / or delays 	 'Connect 'People Plan - Organisational Development Plan Transformation Projects Positive about Disabled People Recruitment policy and procedures Probationary periods Induction, Training and Development plans 	Good	4	4	High

Risk	Lead Risk Owner		Principal impacts or consequences		Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	al	al Risk	
		•	Service failures lead to potential intervention or loss	•	Performance Reviews Appraisals					
			of funding	•	OHS referrals					
				•	Digitalised Procedure notes to be made available to appropriate officers in event of manager or other experienced officers' absence / non- availability					
				•	Staff Survey and People Plan					
11 – Failure to enter into and manage	Assistant	•	Failure to adequately specify	•	Contract procedures	Good	3	3	Med	
effective partnerships and contracts for the delivery of services and outcomes.	Director – People and Communities			and agree required outcomes	•	Contract Terms and Conditions				
	with support from all	•	Failure to manage contracts effectively	•	Monitoring processes and meetings					
	Assistant Directors with	•	Failure of a contractor or contract arrangements	•	Contingency and business continuity					
	contract responsibilities	•	Service delivery failures		arrangements					
	·	•	Creation of unexpected liabilities.	•	Contract performance bonds					
		•	Increasing number or extent of supply chains require	•	Clear partnership agreements covering legal, financial, and					

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences	Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	Residu al Impact	al Risk
		significant expertise or experience to risk manage	operational arrangements				
			 Training for contract managers as required. 				
			 Major Contract Risk Registers which will be reviewed in light of COVID-19 				
12 – The Council could fail to provide consistent Value for Money (VFM) across its existing services or obtain VFM when procuring new services.	Section 151 Officer	 Service costs exceed funding available leading to overspends and loss of financial control Contractual commitments become unsustainable Customer dissatisfaction with VFM 	 Sustainable Commissioning and Procurement Strategy Benchmarking, and best practice case studies Contract Procedure Rules Internal and external Audit reports Expenditure monitoring and reporting to Members Business Process Re- engineering (BPR) as required Robust option appraisals 	Good	2	3	Med

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences	Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	Residu al Impact	al Risk
13 – Failure to ensure good governance of the Council's activities and delivery of its priorities.		 Failure to follow procedures leads to successful appeals or legal challenges Misuse of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) lead to prosecutions Failure to detect and prevent fraud or to respond to rising trends of fraud An increasing propensity for compensation claims could result in additional costs and inefficient use of resources Failure to manage performance effectively leading to reduced service delivery Failure to supply required data to Government, or meet the Government's Transparency Code Government intervention in services or governance matters as a result of failures 	 and records of decisions Internal Audit Programme Performance management Framework Legally compliant tendering procedures Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Anti Money Laundering Procedures Whistleblowing Policy and Procedures Codes of Governance, 	Good	2	σ	Med

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences	Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	Residu al Impact	al Risk
14 – The Council could fail to ensure Rochford's ICT Estate supports achievement of Business Objectives.	Assistant Director – Transformation and Customer	 Fail to maintain an ICT Roadmap that is fit for purpose Be unable to obtain replacement contractors at short notice with consequent and have to obtain replacement contractors charging premium prices for service recovery actions Experience adverse effects on service with consequent reputational risks Fail to update software / hardware leading to application and service delivery failure Fail to adequately manage ICT projects 	 ICT Digital Roadmap Project plans Software Asset list Budget controls Contract Management Programme of works identified which continues to support the council's transformation agenda including further development of digitally enabled services and feedback from the COVID-19 Restoration project 	Good	4	3	Med
15 – The Council fails to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and is unable to demonstrate consistent application of information standards, controls, and statutory compliance.	Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic	 Failure to process sensitive / personal data appropriately leading to potentially substantial fines Information Commissioner investigations and / or penalties 	 Compliance with relevant Policies and Procedures Roles and Responsibility Training 	Good	2	4	Med

Appendix A to Item 9

Risk	Lead Risk Owner	Principal impacts or consequences	Principal controls & actions	Quality of controls	al	al	Residu al Risk Rating
			'Opt In' Consent fully detailed on all relevant paperwork.				
			 Internal Compliance Audits 				

Part 3 Corporate Risk Map

Impact	4 Catastrophic		Risk 2, 3a and 15	Risks 3b and 9	Risk 10		
	3 Critical		Risks 1, 7, 8, 12 and 13	Risks 4, 5 and 11	Risk 14		
	2 Marginal						
	1 Negligible						
		1 Negligible	2 Very Low	3 Low	4 Significant	5 High	6 Very High
		Likelihood					

Key	Risk level	Action required
	High	Urgent / Imperative to manage down risk – transfer or terminate
	Medium	Seek to influence risk over medium term or transfer out risk e.g. by insuring
	Low	Tolerate and Monitor – manage down if possible

Part 4 Risk Scoring

			LIKELIHOOD	of event occurring					
1 Negligib	le	2 Very Low	3 Low	4 Significant	5 Hi	igh	6 Very High		
0% to 5%		6% to 15%	16% to 30%	31% to 60%	61% to	85%	86%to100%		
			IMPACT of	event occurring					
	Ne	egligible – 1	Marginal – 2	Critical -	Critical – 3		Catastrophic – 4		
Financial	£0K - £10	K	£10K - £200K	£200K - £1M		£1M- £10M			
Service Provision	Minor ser	vice delay	Short term service delay	Service suspended delay			pended long term / Ities not delivered		
Project	Minor dela	ay	A few milestones missed	A major milestone m			Project does not achieve objectives and misses majority of milestones		
Health & Safety	Sticking F	Plaster / first-aider	Broken bones / Illness	Loss of Life / Major i	of Life / Major illness		of life / Large scale major illnes		
Objectives	Minor imp	eact on objectives	Objectives of one section no	ot met	es not met	Corporate objectives not met			
Morale	Mild impa	ct on morale	Some hostile relationships a minor non cooperation	Industrial action		Mass staff leaving / Unable to attract			
Reputation	No media attention / minor letters		Adverse Local media	Adverse National pu	Adverse National publicity		ed for years!		
Government relations	Minor loca	al service issues	Poor Assessment(s)	Service taken over to	emporarily	Service taken over permanently			
Political	No interes	st / Minor attention	Adverse local media or indiv public reaction		verse national publicity or Major politication anised public reaction years!		political reaction - remembered for		
Legal	No significant legal implications		Internal review and minimal coverage	media External review and public opinion.	External review and impact on public opinion.		oceedings / civil litigation		
Communities	Minimal e		Short term Impact on small of clients / customers / communities	group Long term Impact or of clients / customer communities		Long term in	mpact on vulnerable people		