

For Publication

**Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Audit and Standards Committee
21 September 2021**

REPORT AUTHOR: HEAD OF GOVERNANCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

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Background Papers: None

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL			FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES			EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL			POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	✓	OTHER (please specify)	
	New	✓		

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE:

To review the progress of the Services Corporate Risk Register

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit and Standards Committee, in carrying out their monitoring of the Risk Register:

1. Consider and comment on the effective development and application of the Corporate Risk Register;

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Managing risks, both operational and strategic, is an important part of ensuring that the resources of Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service are used to best advantage. Risk is inherent in most things that the Service does and much of its activity is already assessed and managed through the application of the operational risk management procedures. The Corporate Risk Register details risks and mitigation to ensure risk is managed appropriately and proportionately.
- 1.2 The aims of Risk Management for Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (“the Service”) are to:
 - Protect the assets of the Service
 - Ensure service continuity
 - Facilitate innovation and opportunity

2. Background

- 2.1 The corporate risk register captures and describes the Authority’s most significant risks, with a focus on reducing risks by implementing mitigation. It is formally reviewed and refreshed on a regular cycle by the Corporate Management Team for progress.

The process includes the identification, assessment and recording of risks and mitigating activities which is incorporated into Service plans. The final stage of the process, once risks have been reviewed by risk owners, is for the Audit & Standards Committee to consider and comment.

Horizon scanning is used to explore potential future developments, better anticipate risks and emerging trends that might affect the Service. It helps by taking a longer-term strategic approach and makes present plans more resilient to future uncertainty.

3. Corporate Risk Register

3.1 The Risk Register 8 corporate risks are:

1. The Service does not have the capacity or capability to respond to significant events and meeting service delivery requirements
2. Failure to meet service delivery legislative prevention and protection requirements
3. Failure to maintain ICT systems to ensure an effective service response
4. Insufficient funds to deliver the organisations CRMP
5. Inability to respond to a major operational incident
6. Death or serious injury in the workplace due to BFRS activities
7. Ensure that our data management arrangements are robust
8. The Service fails to effectively record, track and maintain its key assets and business critical equipment

3.2 The Corporate Risk Registers includes only the risks that have a significant impact on the FRA to deliver its fire and rescue services. As of 30 June 2021 the Register contains 8 Corporate Risks which are categorised as:

- 1 Very High Risks
- 2 High Risk
- 5 Moderate Risks
- 0 Low Risk

3.3 Risk owners are assigned to each issue with active mitigation in place. All risk register owners have reviewed, updated their risk mitigations with progress reports. Overall, the Corporate Management Team is satisfied with the adequacy of risk mitigation progress

3.4 Updates across all risk titles have been recorded, but no changes to the overall risk scores at this time. Corporate Management Team (CMT) continue to track progress on the actions.

Updates:

Corporate Risk 1 - The Service does not have the capacity or capability to respond to significant events and meeting service delivery requirements

No update

Corporate Risk 2 - Failure to meet service delivery legislative prevention and protection requirements

High risk properties not identified/assessed/mitigated – A project has been launched to develop an in-house risk analysis capability for Risk Based Inspections.

Not being able to react to changes in Government Policy – Three additional posts now in place, 21-22 Government Grant being used to create additional fixed term Fire Safety Advisor posts.

Failure to mitigate community risks – Currently on track to meet CRMP 21-22 target of 10,000 Safe and Well visits, work is nearing completion on delivery of revised visit database and mobile working.

Corporate Risk 3 - Failure to maintain ICT systems to ensure an effective service response

No update

Corporate Risk 4 - Insufficient funds to deliver the organisations CRMP

Poor settlement – The budget process for 2022/23 has commenced internally. We await information from the Home Office, expected late December for the provisional settlement.

Ineffective management of resources - The next Budget Monitoring report to CMT and the FRA will follow in the Autumn of 2021

Funding pressures impacted by pensions and pay awards - Paper due to the FRA Executive committee on the impact of pensions and pay awards in October 2021.

Corporate Risk 5 - Inability to respond to a major operational incident

No update

Corporate Risk 6 - Death or serious injury in the workplace due to BFRS activities

No update

Corporate Risk 7 - Ensure that our data management arrangements are robust

System backups are not robust – Information Management & Assurance Board (IMAB) meetings continue, Phishing scam reminders are put in the Blue Bulletin to ensure staff are aware

Corporate Risk 8 - The Service fails to effectively record, track and maintain its key assets and business critical equipment

Poor central records system in place – Fleet system has been successfully tested with General Ledger upgrades. WiFi role out will support connectivity of agile working tablets for technicians.

Lack of resources to manage process - It is estimated that all stations will be transferred to full system Q4 2021. Loss of a resource from the project has impacted delivery due to new mobilising system upgrades in control requiring support.

Corporate Risk 9 - Service is adversely impacted by COVID 19

No Update

4. Summary and Next Steps

4.1 The Corporate Risk register will continue to be reviewed quarterly.

5. Recommendations

5.1 That the Audit and Standards Committee, in carrying out their monitoring of the Risk Register:

Consider and comment on the effective development and application of the Corporate Risk Register;

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