

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Audit and Standards Committee
4 March 2024

SUBJECT: **COPORATE RISK REGISTER**

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Background Papers: None

Implications

	Yes / No	Impact / Reference
Financial Implications	No	Any adjustments to budgets as a result of this paper will be discussed and cost implications reported to Members in line with our Members Handbook and governance arrangements.
Risk Management	Yes	Our Corporate Risk Register is reviewed quarterly by officers and a quarterly update presented to the Audit and Standards Committee.
Legal Implications	No	Our Corporate Risk Register is reported in line with the Fire Service Act 2004 and Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2018.
Privacy and Security Implications	No	The Corporate Risk Register is produced in line with GDPR and information security legislation. There are no privacy issues or security implications from this report.

Duty to Collaborate	No	The Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires the Authority to consider opportunities for collaboration with the police and ambulance services
Health and Safety Implications	No	Health and safety performance implications are discussed at the Health and Safety Steering Group. Any serious implications for staff and third parties will be reviewed by the Health and Safety Manager and reported to Members.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	No	Where performance affects people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, we will give due regard to the public sector equality duty. A People Impact Assessment (PIA) is produced for all Projects, Strategies and public events. The purpose of a PIA is to support consideration of equality and diversity issues in the design, development and delivery of activity, change, projects, procedures, guidance and technical notes across the Service
Environmental Sustainability	No	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires that a public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Consider the impact of the proposals on climate change, harmful emissions, consumption of resources and sustainability. The Environment Act 2021 details enforcement practices overseen by the Office for Environmental Protection if a public authority has allegedly failed to comply with environmental law.
Consultation and Communication	No	Our approach to Communications and Engagement is set out in our Comms and Engagement Strategy. This includes our principles of consultation.

PURPOSE:

To present members with an update on the Corporate Risk Register for Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

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 (BFRS) 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 mitigating actions. It is formally reviewed and refreshed on a regular cycle by the Corporate Management Team (CMT).

- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. 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. The Corporate Risk Register incorporates horizon scanning incorporates input from a wide range of sources including internal stakeholders, the NFCC Business Continuity Group and from our internal auditors, RSM.

3. Corporate Risk Register

- 3.1. The corporate risk register has 15 high level risks, four of these are BFRS specific in addition to risks identified by the NFCC Business Continuity Group.

The risks are:

1. Loss or Lack of staff
2. Insufficient funding
3. Loss of Utilities
4. Loss of ICT
5. Death or Serious injury of...
6. Change in national legislation or guidance requiring additional workloads above BAU, to assess implement and embed
7. Loss, withdrawal or inability to access critical systems or service suppliers
8. Loss of Service Premises
9. Failure to appropriately manage an event, situation or incident that leads to a loss of public confidence in the Fire Service
10. Primary and secondary impacts of climate change requiring adaptation and mitigations beyond the Service's core budget
11. Loss, inability to access, or damage to physical or electronic data (Data Breach)
12. Ineffective prioritisation/ co-ordination of competing key initiatives, workstreams and programmes

13. Failure to collaborate effectively
14. Inability to drive cultural change on equality, diversity and inclusion and respond to issues, queries, complaints that arise in a timely and efficient manner
15. Failure to leverage timely and accurate core data from internal and external sources

3.2. The Corporate Risk Registers includes only the risks that have a significant impact on the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) to deliver its Fire and Rescue services. The Corporate Risks which are categorised as:

- 5 Very High Risks
- 5 High Risk
- 5 Moderate Risks

3.3 The highest risk to the Service currently is recorded as the Service being in receipt of insufficient funding.

4. Updates since January 2024

4.1. The Corporate Risk Register was last presented to Members at the Audit and Standards Committee of the 4th January 2024.

- Since January 2024 there have been no new risks added to the register.
- Since January 2024 there have been no risks removed from the register.
- Since January 2024 there have been no changes to the scoring (Impact and Likelihood) of any of the existing risks on the register.

4.2 Additional consequences and exposures have been recorded for risk 6 – “Change in national legislation or guidance requiring additional workloads above BAU, to assess implement and embed.”

- The register records the Government's response to the fire reform white paper which sets out a Home Office commitment to support a single point accountability for Fire and Rescue Services.
- The register notes the consequences of a potential future change of the Governance for Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

- Mitigating actions for this risk include the enhanced engagement with Government, NFCC and local elected officials.
- The Government's response to the fire reform white paper was not assessed as sufficient to change the risk score.

4.4 Additional consequences have been recorded for risk 14 – “Inability to drive cultural change on equality, diversity and inclusion in a timely and efficient manner.”

- Since the register was last seen by Members the Service has considered the Independent Culture Review Publication for South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. As a result of the publication, the Welsh Government has intervened to replace the FRA and confer all of the functions of the FRA to 4 Commissioners.
- The register notes potential for increased scrutiny in FRA oversight of culture.
- The publication of the Independent Culture Review Publication for South Wales Fire and Rescue Service was not assessed as sufficient to change the risk score.

5. Review

5.1. The Corporate Risk register will continue to be reviewed regularly and results reported to Members every quarter.

JOHN-JOE PEKSZYC
HEAD OF STRATEGIC SUPPORT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT