

Audit and Procurement Committee

17th March 2025

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership – Councillor G Duggins

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Ward(s) affected:

City-wide

Title:

Corporate Risk

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit and Procurement Committee with the outcome of the latest review of the Corporate Risk Register 2025-26 in Appendix 1 to the report. By having arrangements in place to identify and manage our risks, we increase our chances of achieving corporate and operational objectives and reduce the chance of failure. Good risk management also increases our ability to cope with developing and uncertain events.

Recommendations:

The Audit and Procurement Committee are requested to:

- 1) Note the current Corporate Risk Register, indicating that they have satisfied themselves that corporate risks are being identified and managed.
- 2) Identify any areas where they require additional information (if any).
- 3) Approve the bringing of a further risk management report to the Audit and Procurement Committee in September 2025.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Corporate Risk Register

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Corporate Risk

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Audit and Procurement Committee's Terms of Reference requires the Committee to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management within the Council. It was agreed on 18 March 2024 that the Audit and Procurement Committee would receive the Corporate Risk Register twice a year in line with the Grant Thornton value for money report.
- 1.2 The Corporate Risk Register should identify the risks that threaten the successful implementation of the One Coventry Plan.
- 1.3 This report provides the Audit and Procurement Committee with the outcome of the review of the Corporate Risk Register 2025-26, which was received by Leadership Board on 18 February 2025 and, subsequently, the addition of one new risk.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The Corporate Risk Register at Appendix 1 to the report has been reviewed in consultation with the Leadership Board and the allocated Risk Owner. It identifies the main risks facing the Council, the impact of the risk, the inherent risk score before risk mitigation, the risk mitigations, the risk score after the mitigations are applied and where responsibility lies for the Council's response. The final column identifies what the risk score was when the Committee last received a report in September 2024.
- 2.2 The Corporate Risks and the control measures in place to address them are more fully described in Appendix 1 to the report. Audit and Procurement Committee are asked to review the register and satisfy themselves that the process is operating effectively within the Council as required under the Risk Management Policy.
- 2.3 There are some changes to the Corporate Risk Register from the previous report to Members.

Risks added in this review:

Risk 40 - Mainstream Education Sufficiency.

This is an ongoing risk which has been added to the Risk Register to highlight its potential to become a bigger issue. This is also reflected in its inherent risk score of 15 (whilst its residual risk score remains 9).

A growing child and young person population is impacting on our ability to meet statutory duty to ensure there is sufficiency of school places for children and young people living in Coventry. Whilst additional places were implemented into the Secondary Sector since 2018 to respond to a birth rate population bulge moving through the system, a significant increase in in-year admissions (21/22, 22/23 and 23/24 academic years) has impacted on sufficiency of places across the mainstream sector and is also impacting on co-ordinated admissions (Year 6/7). In addition to this recent government changes announced in relation to VAT on private

school fees could result in pupil movement from the private sector to the state sector.

Inability to meet our sufficiency duty is a corporate risk, that could result in legal challenge, challenge from DfE and ministers, and ultimately impact on decisions re: use of capital resource. We consider that this risk should remain on the Risk Register at least until we have the capital allocations and an update on in-year sufficiency position.

Risks removed:

Risk 28 – A deterioration in industrial/employee relations affects the Council’s ability to deliver vital services.

Leadership Board felt that this could now be managed at directorate level; this was confirmed by Director of People Services.

Risk 29 – The continued implementation of the Elections Act.

Following the delivery of the general election this risk has been removed.

Risk 31 – A Council that makes thoughtful, well researched and robust business cases backed commercial investments to derive additional sustainable income streams to the Council, so that it has additional funds to provide services to residents, deliver policy priorities, and achieve its One Coventry Plan through being more financially robust.

Leadership Board agreed that this is no longer a corporate risk and has moved to business as usual.

Risks where the residual risk score has decreased:

Risk 22 - Children’s Services workforce stability.

The residual risk score reduced from 20 to 16 with inherent risk score remaining at 25.

Risks where the residual risk score has increased:

There are no risks where the residual score has increased.

Risks where the inherent risk score has changed but the residual risk score remains the same.

There are no existing risks where the inherent risk score has changed but the residual risk score remained the same.

- 2.4 It is proposed that the Corporate Risk Register be reviewed by the Audit and Procurement Committee next in September 2025.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

None.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

There is no implementation timetable as this is a monitoring report.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications directly associated with the Corporate Risk Register although the management of the risks is essential to the operation of the Council, the pursuit of its priorities and its financial integrity.

5.2 Legal implications

The maintenance and review of the Corporate Risk Register ensures that the Council meets its statutory obligation under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to have appropriate measures in place to ensure that risk is appropriately managed.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the One Coventry Plan? (<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>)

Effective risk management arrangements are an integral component of strategic decision making, service planning and delivery and increasing the likelihood of achieving corporate priorities.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The Council has a policy to support risk management arrangements across the organisation as part of its overarching governance processes. This report forms part of that practice.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Effective risk management arrangements are part of the good governance arrangements which lead to improved decision making and operational practices across the organisation.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

The Corporate Risk Register outlines the risk as the Council tackles the causes and consequences of climate change and promotes sustainability.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author:

Name and job title:

Vernon Wilkes
Interim Insurance and Risk Manager

Service:

Finance and Resources

Tel and email contact:

02476 972774 – vernon.wilkes@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/ approver name	Title	Service area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law and Governance	26/02/25	26/02/25
Jim Crawshaw	Head of Housing and Homelessness	Adult Services and Housing	26/02/25	04/03/25
Susanna Chilton	Director of People	-	26/02/25	27/02/25
Peter Fahy	Director of Adults and Housing	-	26/02/25	04/03/25
Sukriti Sen	Director of Children's and Education	-	26/02/25	26/02/25
Paul Ward	Director of Digital Services	-	26/02/25	28/02/25
Andy Williams	Director of Regeneration and Economy	-	26/02/25	04/03/25
Alison Duggal	Director of Public Health	-	26/02/25	05/03/25
Nigel Hart	Head of Communications	Policy and Communications	26/02/25	04/03/25
Liz Read	Electoral Services Manager	Law and Governance	26/02/25	06/03/25
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Tina Pinks	Finance Manager Corporate Finance	Finance and Resources	26/02/25	03/03/25
Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	-	26/02/25	04/03/25

Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)	-	26/02/25	05/03/25
Councillor G Duggins	Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	26/02/25	04/03/25
Councillor R Lakha	Chair of Audit and Procurement Committee	-	26/02/25	27/02/25

This report is published on the council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/council-meetings