


REPORT TO EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

6 May 2020

Subject:	Covid 19 Risk Management Update
Director:	David Stevens Neil Cox Rebecca Maher
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
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DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Review and comment on the accompanying report which sets out the impact that Covid 19 is having on the key risks faced by the Council and
2. Notes the mitigations that have been put in place to date and considers the further mitigations that may be required to manage these risks and the implications of these.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update members of the Committee on the new emerging risks faced by the Council in light of Covid 19, together with the impact on existing risks, the assessment of these risks and the arrangements in place to manage these.

The reporting of these risks will contribute to ensuring that good governance, internal control and risk management arrangements inform decision making throughout the emergency period.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Council is no different to any organisation and will always face risks in achieving its vision and objectives. Sound risk management can be seen as the clear identification and management of such risks to a level that is acceptable and within the Council's appetite for risk.
- 2.2 The Covid 19 global pandemic has had a profound impact on all risks faced by the Council, with some risks impacted to a greater extent than other risks. The impact of the Council's response to Covid 19 has resulted in a significant change to the Council services being delivered and the way in which daily operations have been undertaken. This unprecedented environment has resulted in operational decisions being taken and implemented at speed, in accordance with information available at the time and in response to central government (including Public Health England) directives and guidelines at the time, which may have changed as better intelligence has been made available.
- 2.3 In addition to the impact on existing risks, the pandemic has also resulted in a number of new significant risks that have emerged affecting the local economy, our businesses, our residents, as well as those affecting Council services. These emerging risks are being identified on a continual basis as the global and national picture of the crisis unfolds and the implications become better understood.
- 2.4 The Council is responding to the emergency whilst at the same time continuing service delivery where possible, particularly ensuring that the provision of its statutory functions is effectively discharged. It becomes even more important therefore that the Council continues to ensure appropriate governance, risk management and internal control arrangements are in place and that risks are identified and managed.
- 2.5 The purpose of this report is to highlight to the Committee the risk profile as it currently stands, the steps that have been taken by the Council to date to mitigate these risks, and to help inform ongoing risk based decision making in respect of the future activity of the Council, including the further measures that may be required to manage these risks.
- 2.6 Covid 19 has impacted all services across the Council and therefore impacted on all risks too. The report details the key strategic and operational risks to ensure that the current focus is on these key risks.

3 THE CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The report shows the risks currently identified and the risk profile. The risk register is a live document and reflects the Council position at the time of preparing this report. Given the constantly evolving nature of the pandemic and central government directives and decisions, the risks will require ongoing review to ensure they remain appropriate and are correctly assessed in order to aid informed decision making and resource allocation.

3.2 The report is compiled as follows:

- A summary of the key newly identified risks that have emerged as a result of Covid 19 is set out at Appendix A. Mitigations taken to date are also noted. In assessing these risks, account has been taken of the impact Covid 19 has had on 'life and limb', finance, service delivery and the Council's reputation.
- A summary of the impact that Covid 19 has had on the strategic risks that were identified pre Covid 19 is set out at Appendix B. The risks have been updated to show any changes in risk assessments and target dates from pre Covid 19. It also provides analysis and commentary on how each of the risks have been impacted and the measures taken to date in managing the risk.
- A summary of the impact that Covid 19 has had on other key operational risks is noted at Appendix C.

4 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

4.1 Each risk has been discussed with the risk owners and the Council's Leadership Team.

4.2 The risks will also be considered by the Governance and Risk Assurance Group.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 This report is for comment and does not require a decision and therefore, alternative options do not need to be considered. Despite this, when considering potential risk mitigating strategies and the allocation of limited resources to manage these risks to an acceptable level, consideration will need to be given to any alternative options and mitigations available.

6 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The authority's Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) requires close identification and alignment of risks to budget planning processes. In this way, the identification and management of its key risks informs the authority's allocation of resources.
- 6.2 Due to the nature of this unforeseen emergency, the identification and management of risks will not necessarily align to the budget planning already undertaken for 2020/21 and onwards. The authority's budget planning process will now need to be reviewed to ensure that limited resources are appropriately allocated in light of any new priorities.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The reporting of these risk will contribute to ensuring that good governance, internal control and risk management arrangements inform decision making throughout the emergency period.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 As a decision is not being sought in this report, it is not necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 As a decision is not being sought in this report, it is not necessary to undertake a Data Protection Impact Assessment.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 There are no crime and disorder risks arising from this report.

11 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 11.1 As noted above, this report reflects the Council position at the time of preparing this report. Given the constantly evolving nature of the pandemic and central government announcements and decisions, the risks will require ongoing review to ensure they remain appropriate and are correctly assessed in order to aid informed decision making and sustainable resource allocation.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 12.1 Given the nature of the emergency, a number of the newly identified risks concern the health and wellbeing of Sandwell residents, the Council's workforce and the workforce of providers that are commissioned to deliver services on behalf of the Council.

13 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

- 13.1 There is no direct impact on any Council managed property or land from this report. Despite this, the impact of Covid 19 has identified risks in respect of regeneration and capital schemes.

14 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 The purpose of the report is to update members of the Committee on the risks faced by the Council in light of Covid 19, together with the impact of this on existing risks and new emerging risks.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Strategic risk register March 2020

Directorate risk registers

Project risk registers

Operational risk registers

APPENDICES:

Appendix A- new Covid 19 strategic risks

Appendix B- Impact of Covid 19 on existing strategic risks

Appendix C- Impact of Covid 19 on operational risks.