

Appendix 1 – Leadership Risk Register as at 12/02/2024

Level of risk	How the risk should be managed
High Risk (16-25)	Requires active management to manage down and maintain the exposure at an acceptable level. Escalate upwards.
Medium Risk (10 -15)	Contingency Plans - a robust contingency plan may suffice together with early warning mechanisms to detect any deviation from the profile.
Low Risk (1 – 9)	Good Housekeeping - may require some risk mitigation to reduce the likelihood if this can be done cost effectively, but good housekeeping to ensure that the impact remains low should be adequate. Re-assess frequently to ensure conditions remain the same.

Risk Scorecard – Residual Risks						
		Probability				
		1 - Remote	2 - Unlikely	3 - Possible	4 - Probable	5 - Highly Probable
Impact	5 - Catastrophic			L08		
	4 - Major		L09 - L06	L03-L07-L11-L14	L01	
	3 - Moderate		L04-L05-L10	L02-L12	L13	
	2 - Minor					
	1 - Insignificant					

Risk Definition	
Leadership	Strategic risks that are significant in size and duration, and will impact on the reputation and performance of the Council as a whole, and in particular, on its ability to deliver on its corporate priorities
Operational	Risks to systems or processes that underpin the organisation’s governance, operation and ability to deliver services

Name and Description of risk	Potential impact	Inherent (gross) risk level (before Controls)	Controls	Control assessment	Lead Member	Risk owner	Risk manager	Residual risk level (after existing controls)	Direction of travel	Mitigating actions (to address control issues)	Comments	Last updated	
		Probability Impact Rating		Fully effective Partially effective Not effective				Probability Impact Rating					
L01 - Financial resilience – Failure to react to external financial impacts, new policy and increased service demand. Poor investment and asset management decisions.	Reduced medium and long term financial viability	4	16	Medium Term Revenue Plan reported regularly to members.	Fully	Councillor A Nell	Michael Furness	Joanne Kaye	4	16	↔	This continuous process will include reviewing budget monitoring, active budget management, and reflection of economic and Local Government sector trends in the MTFS. Wherever possible, policy decisions will be taken as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the February Council meeting which sets the annual budget. This will allow officers to be ready to implement, or have implemented, policy decisions which will maximise positive impacts on the budget.	Risk reviewed on 05/02/24 - No changes
	Reduction in services to customers			Balanced medium term and dynamic ability to prioritise resources	Fully							Financial forecasts of resources for 2024/25 and 2025/26 have assumed a reduction in resources compared to February 2023 assumptions. The budget for 2023/24 was agreed with savings proposals identified to contribute to addressing these reductions. Close monitoring of the delivery of the savings programme will take place throughout 2023/24 with mitigations required if slippage was identified.	
	Increased volatility and inability to manage and respond to changes in funding levels			Highly professional, competent, qualified staff	Partially							Integration and continued development of Performance, Finance and Risk reporting	
	Reduced financial returns (or losses) on investments/assets such as in subsidiaries.			Good networks established locally, regionally and nationally.	Fully							Internal Audits being undertaken for core financial activity and capital as well as service activity	
	Inability to deliver financial efficiencies			Strong shareholder function and relationships with subsidiaries	Fully							Introduction and implementation of an Asset Management Strategy	
	Exposure to commercial pressures in relation to regeneration projects.			Financial returns from the subsidiaries are not included in the MTFS until they are reasonably assured to materialise.	Partially							Investment Strategy agreed annually	
	Poor customer service and satisfaction			National guidance interpreting legislation available and used regularly.	Fully							Posts are filled by appropriately qualified individuals	
	Increased complexity in governance arrangements			Progress regeneration plans in a coordinated manner. Participate in Oxfordshire Treasurers' Association's work streams.	Fully							Regular involvement and engagement with colleagues across the county	
	Lack of officer capacity to meet service demand			Review of best practice guidance from bodies such as CIPFA, LGA and NAO.	Fully							Regular member training and support	
	Lack of financial awareness and understanding throughout the council			Treasury management and capital strategies in place Investment strategies in place Regular financial and performance monitoring in place.	Fully							Regular utilisation of advisors as appropriate	
	Increased inflation in the costs of capital schemes			Independent third party advisers in place Regular bulletins and advice received from advisers Property portfolio income monitored through financial management arrangements on a regular basis.	Fully							Summarise and distribute announcements to CLT and members.	
	Increased inflation in revenue costs			Independent third party advisers in place Asset Management Strategy in place and embedded Transformation Programme in place to deliver efficiencies and increased income in the future	Fully Fully Partially Partially							Timely and good quality budget management reports, particularly property income and capital Work is underway to maximise the impact of the available space in Banbury town centre	
L02 - Statutory functions – Failure to meet statutory obligations and policy and legislative changes are not anticipated or planned for.	Legal challenge	3	12	Embedded system of legislation and policy tracking in place, with clear accountabilities, reviewed regularly by Directors.	Partially	Councillor S Dallimore	Stephen Hinds	Shiraz Sheikh	3	9	↔	Ensure Committee forward plans are reviewed regularly by senior officers.	Risk reviewed on 03/02/24 - No changes
	Loss of opportunity to influence national policy / legislation			Clear accountability for responding to consultations with defined process to ensure Member engagement	Fully							Ensure Internal Audit plan focusses on key leadership risks.	
	Financial penalties			National guidance interpreting legislation available and used regularly	Fully							Establish corporate repository and accountability for policy/legislative changes taking into consideration all of the Council's functions.	
	Reduced service to customers			Risks and issues associated with Statutory functions incorporated into Directorate Risk Registers and regularly reviewed.	Fully							External support secured for key corporate projects including Growth Deal and IT Transformation Programme.	
	Inability to deliver council's plans			Clear accountability for horizon scanning, risk identification / categorisation / escalation and policy interpretation in place	Partially							Learning and development opportunities identified and promoted by the Chief Executive and Directors. First tranche of Senior Leadership training/development begins in August, and is cascaded throughout 2022/23. Staff briefings on rules and procedures by MO	
	Exposure to commercial pressures			Robust Committee forward plans to allow member oversight of policy issues and risk management, including Scrutiny and Audit	Fully							Review Directorate/Service risk registers.	
	Reduced resilience and business continuity			Internal Audit Plan risk based to provide necessary assurances	Fully							Ensure Committee forward plans are reviewed regularly by senior officers.	
	Reduced staff morale, increased workload and uncertainty may lead to loss of good people			Strong networks established locally, regionally and nationally to ensure influence on policy issues. In addition two Directors hold leading national roles	Fully							Ensure Internal Audit plan focusses on key leadership risks.	
				Senior Members aware and briefed regularly in 1:1s by Directors Arrangements in place to source appropriate interim resource if needed	Fully Fully							Establish corporate repository and accountability for policy/legislative changes taking into consideration all of the Council's functions.	
				Ongoing programme of internal communication Programme Boards in place to oversee key corporate projects and ensure resources are allocated as required. Extended Leadership Team (ELT) Meetings established to oversee and provide assurance on key organisational matters including resourcing.	Fully Fully Fully							External support secured for key corporate projects including Growth Deal and IT Transformation Programme. Learning and development opportunities identified and promoted by the Chief Executive and Directors. First tranche of Senior Leadership training/development begins in August, and is cascaded throughout 2022/23. Staff briefings on rules and procedures by MO Review Directorate/Service risk registers.	

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L08 - Cyber Security -If there is insufficient security with regards to the data held and IT systems used by the councils and insufficient protection against malicious attacks on council's systems then there is a risk of: a data breach, or a loss of service.	Financial loss / fine	4	5	20	File and data encryption on computer devices	Fully	Councillor S Dallimore	Stephen Hinds	David Spilsbury	3	5	15	↔	A series of all-Council staff awareness sessions and members given presentations with the Police Cyber Security Advisor.	Risk reviewed on 7/02/2024 - No changes	
	Prosecution – penalties imposed				Managing access permissions and privileged users through AD and individual applications	Fully								All staff reminded to be vigilant to unexpected emails due to the heightened risk of cyber-attack due to escalating tensions in Eastern Europe and at critical periods such as the run up to Elections		
	Individuals could be placed at risk of harm				Schedule of regular security patching	Fully								Cyber Security advice and guidance regularly highlighted to all staff.		
	Reduced capability to deliver customer facing services				Vulnerability scanning	Fully								Cyber Security is mandatory e-learning for all staff to be completed annually and is part of new starters induction training. Additionally regular Mimecast videos sent to all users for bitsize regular training.		
	Unlawful disclosure of sensitive information				Malware protection and detection	Fully								Cyber Security Officer has reviewed advice and provided assurance on our compliance.		
	Inability to share services or work with partners				Effective information management and security training and awareness programme for staff	Fully								External Health Check undertaken each year and Cabinet Office PSN compliance reviewed and certified each year to ensure the infrastructure is secure to connect to the PSN.		
	Loss of reputation				Password and Multi Factor Authentication security controls in place	Fully								Internal Audit completed cyber audits with no major issues or significant risks identified.		
	Increased threat to security due to most staff working from home					Robust information and data related incident management procedures in place	Fully									IT implemented an intrusion prevention and detection system which is monitored, and regular actions are implemented from the resulting reports.
						Appropriate robust contractual arrangements in place with all third parties that supply systems or data processing services	Fully									IT Officer has specific responsibility for Cyber Security and we have engaged a specialist partner to advise on industry best practices and standards.
						Appropriate plans in place to ensure ongoing PSN compliance	Fully									Microsoft Multi-Factor Authentication is embedded to authenticate users providing an enhanced level of cyber security.
						Adequate preventative measures in place to mitigate insider threat, including physical and system security	Fully									
						Insider threat mitigated through recruitment and line management processes	Fully									
						A complete restructure and update of the technical approach for the infrastructure has resulted in a move to a zero trust model.	Fully									
					Advice received from NCSC on specific activity alerts, the increased threat of globalised ransomware and malware attacks.											
					Mimecast awareness training and comprehensive defence system deployed to improve email security.	Fully										

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L09 - Safeguarding the vulnerable - Internal procedures- Failure to follow our internal policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children or raising concerns about their welfare.	Increased harm and distress caused to vulnerable individuals and their families	4	16	Safeguarding lead in place and clear lines of responsibility established	Fully	Councillor P Chapman	Gordon Stewart	Nicola Riley	2	4	8	↔	Action plan acted upon and shared with Overview and scrutiny committee once a year Annual refresher and new training programmes including training for new members Continue to attend safeguarding board sub groups as necessary to maintain high levels of awareness within the system and compliance with latest practice Corporate monitoring of all referrals Ensure web pages remain up to date Monitoring of implementation of corporate policies and procedures to ensure fully embedded Regular internal cross departmental meetings to discuss safeguarding practice SAR's and Lessons Learned reports circulated to improve practice and knowledge.	Monthly Safeguarding training/ briefings continue with good attendance, Safeguarding News Bulletin to all safeguarding champions keeping safeguarding at the forefront and identifies shared learning across the districts. Further push on Member training saw promising results.	Risk reviewed on 05/02/2024 - Comments updated
	Council could face criminal prosecution		Safeguarding Policy and procedures in place	Fully											
	Criminal investigations potentially compromised		Information on the intranet on how to escalate a concern	Fully											
	Potential financial liability if council deemed to be negligent		Mandatory training and awareness raising sessions are now in place for all staff.	Fully											
	Reputational damage to the council		Safer recruitment practices and DBS checks for staff with direct contact	Fully											
			Data sharing agreement with other partners	Fully											
			Attendance at Children and Young People Partnership Board (CYPPB)	Fully											
			Annual Section 11 return compiled and submitted as required by legislation.	Fully											
L10 - Sustainability of Council owned companies and delivery of planned financial and other objectives- Failure of council owned companies to achieve their intended outcomes or fail to meet financial objectives	Unclear governance leading to lack of clarity and oversight in terms of financial and business outcomes	3	5	15	Annual business planning in place for all companies to include understanding of the link between the Council's strategic objectives being delivered and financial impact for the council. A regular Shareholder Representative meeting takes place, a Shareholder Liaison Meeting including the S.151 Officer and Monitoring Officer takes place on a quarterly basis and a Shareholder Committee meeting on a quarterly basis. A governance review is being undertaken and initial recommendations have been approved by the Shareholder Committee.	Fully	Councillor B Wood	Gordon Stewart	Stephen Hinds	2	3	6	↔	A Shareholder Representative was appointed and regular governance arrangements are in place. Resilience and support being developed across business to support and enhance knowledge around council companies. Skills and experience being enhanced to deliver and support development, challenge and oversight. Work with one company to ensure long term support arrangements are put in place.	Risk reviewed 07/02/2023 - No changes
	Failure of council owned companies to achieve their intended outcomes or fail to meet financial objectives		Regular meetings are in place between the Council's S.151 Officer and the relevant company Finance Directors. Financial planning for the companies undertaken that will then be included within our own Medium Term Financial Strategy. Financial risks are routinely reported by the Shareholder Representative to the Shareholder Committee.	Fully											
	Lack of understanding at officer and member level about the different roles of responsibilities required when managing council owned companies		Clear governance arrangements are in place.	Partially											
			Sound monitoring in place of both business and financial aspects of the companies and the impact on overall council performance through the reporting to the Corporate Leadership Team monthly.	Fully											
			Training in place for those undertaking Director roles relating to the companies.	Partially											

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		Probability	Impact						Probability	Impact						
		3	4		Fully effective Partially effective Not effective				3	4						
L11 - Financial sustainability of third-party suppliers and contractors	The financial failure of a third party supplier and contractors results in the inability or reduced ability to deliver a service to customers or provide goods needed. A reduced supply market could also result in increased costs due to the council's loss of competitive advantage.	3	4	12	Ensure contract management in place review and anticipate problems within key service suppliers and partners	Partially	Councillor A Nell	Shiraz Sheikh	Michael Sullivan	3	4	12	↔	Creditsafe UK tool purchased to allow Procurement to carry out supplier credit checks when required.	Creditsafe UK tool now operational .Guidance is being developed for service areas to ensure that a contract management process is followed on a regular basis. This will include regular checks on Creditsafe UK to check on financial health; service areas will be advised to confirm that business continuity arrangements are in place and to seek evidence of regular reviews of this as part of the contract management process. Service areas to provide details of all current contracts to Procurement to enable analysis of third party spend to identify and risk assess key suppliers and contractors and to identify areas of duplication of costs. Prior to contract award, procurement carries out a credit safe check to ensure financial viability of the preferred supplier.	Risk Reviewed 07/02/24 - No changes.
	Business continuity planning arrangements in place in regards to key suppliers				Partially											
	Ensuring that proactive review and monitoring is in place for key suppliers to ensure we are able to anticipate any potential service failures				Partially											
	Intelligence unit set up procurement Hub to monitor supplier and contractor market				Fully											
	Analysis of third party spend undertaken to identify and risk assess key suppliers/contractors				Fully											
Reduced resilience and business continuity																
Increased complaints and/or customer dissatisfaction																
Increased costs and/or financial exposure to the Council due to having to cover costs or provide service due to failure of third party supplier of contractor																
L12 - Corporate Governance - Failure of corporate governance leads to negative impact on service delivery or the implementation of major projects providing value to customers.	Threat to service delivery and performance if good management practices and controls are not adhered to.	4	4	16	Clear and robust control framework including: constitution, scheme of delegation, ethical walls policy etc.	Fully	Councillor S Dallimore	Stephen Hinds	Shiraz Sheikh	3	3	9	↔	The Annual Governance Statement was produced and has been published and approved by the Audit, Accounts and Risk Committee. The Corporate Governance Assurance Group continues to map governance processes to ensure visibility and to refresh them.		Risk reviewed on 07/02/24 - No changes
	Risk of ultra vires activity or lack of legal compliance				Clear accountability and resource for corporate governance (including the shareholder role).	Fully										
	Risk of fraud or corruption				Integrated budget, performance and risk reporting framework.	Fully										
	Risk to financial sustainability if lack of governance results in poor investment decisions or budgetary control.				Corporate programme office and project management framework. Includes project and programme governance.	Partially										
	Failure of corporate governance in terms of major projects, budgets or council owned companies impacts upon financial sustainability of the council.				Internal audit programme aligned to leadership risk register.	Fully										
	Inability to support Council's democratic functions / obligations (e.g. return to physical public meetings and public access to meetings).				Training and development resource targeted to address priority issues; examples include GDPR, safeguarding etc.	Partially										
	Elements of the COVID-19 response and recovery work may be compromised, delayed or not taken forwards.				HR policy framework.	Partially										
					Annual governance statement process undertaken for 2021/22 connects more fully and earlier with ELT and CLT.	Fully										
					Annual Review of the Constitution by the MO with member involvement and approval by the Full Council	Fully										

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		Probability	Impact						Probability	Impact					
		4	5		Fully effective Partially effective Not effective				4	3					
L13 - Monitoring and management of Major Infrastructure Projects and Programmes - Failure to properly manage and monitor the various residual Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal infrastructure projects.	Failure to actively manage the various Infrastructure Projects and Programmes, particularly in relation to those being delivered by Oxfordshire County Council, could lead to delays or failure to deliver timely obligations, which could lead to HM Government holding back some or all of its funding, or requiring repayment.	4	5	20	Need to establish appropriate officer and stakeholder governance structures to support effective programme delivery.	Partially	Councillor D Ford	Ian Boll	Robert Jolley	4	3	12	↔	Establishment of appropriate officer and stakeholder governance structures to support effective programme delivery Institute regular and effective dialogue with developers	Risk reviewed on 06/02/24 - No changes
	Delivery of Infrastructure projects fail to accelerate housing delivery as commercial pressures impact house builders				Need to institute regular and effective dialogue with developers.	Partially									
L14 - Workforce Strategy The lack of effective workforce strategies could impact on our ability to deliver Council priorities and services.	Limit our ability to recruit, retain and develop staff	3	4	12	Analysis of workforce data and on-going monitoring of issues.	Partially	Councillor S Dallimore	Gordon Stewart	Claire Cox	3	4	12	↔	There are indications that specific service areas are continue to experience recruitment difficulties for professional roles. HR is working with the relevant directors to consider alternative resourcing methods. Development of new L&D strategy, including apprenticeships. Development of relevant workforce plans. Development of specific recruitment and retention strategies. It is planned for CDC to develop a framework that suits the needs of all services ensuring that the Council has access to a much wider pool of staffing agencies at competitive rates. The new IT system has been implemented to improve our workforce data and continues to be develop to improve our ability to interrogate and access key data (ongoing) in order to inform workforce strategies.	Risk reviewed on 06/02/2024 - No changes
	Impact on our ability to deliver high quality services				Key staff in post to address risks (e.g. strategic HR business partners)	Fully									
	Overreliance on temporary staff				Weekly Vacancy Management process in place	Fully									
	Additional training and development costs				Ongoing service redesign will set out long term service requirements	Partially									