

Appendix 1 – Leadership Risk Register as at 06/10/2023

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	L03-L06-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	Lead Member	Risk owner	Risk manager	Residual risk level (after existing controls)		Mitigating actions (to address control issues)	Comments	Last updated
		Probability	Impact					Probability	Impact			
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	4	16	Councillor A Nell	Michael Furness	Joanne Kaye	4	4	16	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Integration and continued development of Performance, Finance and Risk reporting</p> <p>Internal Audits being undertaken for core financial activity and capital as well as service activity</p> <p>Introduction and implementation of an Asset Management Strategy</p> <p>Investment Strategy agreed annually</p> <p>Posts are filled by appropriately qualified individuals</p> <p>Regular involvement and engagement with colleagues across the county</p> <p>Regular member training and support</p> <p>Regular utilisation of advisors as appropriate</p> <p>Summarise and distribute announcements to CLT</p> <p>Timely and good quality budget monitoring reports, particularly property income and capital</p> <p>Work is underway to maximise the impact of the available space in Banbury town centre</p>	Risk reviewed on 02/10/23 - Mitigating actions updated
	Reduction in services to customers	Balanced medium term and dynamic ability to prioritise resources										
	Increased volatility and inability to manage and respond to changes in funding levels	Highly professional, competent, qualified staff										
	Reduced financial returns (or losses) on investments/assets such as in subsidiaries.	Good networks established locally, regionally and nationally.										
	Inability to deliver financial efficiencies	Strong shareholder function and relationships with subsidiaries										
	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.										
	Poor customer service and satisfaction	National guidance interpreting legislation available and used regularly.										
	Increased complexity in governance arrangements	Progress regeneration plans in a coordinated manner. Participate in Oxfordshire Treasurers' Association's work streams.										
	Lack of officer capacity to meet service demand	Review of best practice guidance from bodies such as CIPFA, LGA and NAO.										
	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.										
	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.										
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											
L02 - Statutory functions – Failure to meet statutory obligations and policy and legislative changes are not anticipated or planned for.	Legal challenge	3	4	12	Councillor S Dallimore	Stephen Hinds	Shiraz Sheikh	3	3	9	<p>Ensure Committee forward plans are reviewed regularly by senior officers.</p> <p>Ensure Internal Audit plan focusses on key leadership risks.</p> <p>Establish corporate repository and accountability for policy/legislative changes taking into consideration all of the Council's functions.</p> <p>External support secured for key corporate projects including Growth Deal and IT Transformation Programme.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Review Directorate/Service risk registers.</p> <p>Ensure Committee forward plans are reviewed regularly by senior officers.</p> <p>Ensure Internal Audit plan focusses on key leadership risks.</p> <p>Establish corporate repository and accountability for policy/legislative changes taking into consideration all of the Council's functions.</p> <p>External support secured for key corporate projects including Growth Deal and IT Transformation Programme.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Review Directorate/Service risk registers.</p>	Risk reviewed on 03/10/23 - No changes
	Loss of opportunity to influence national policy / legislation	Clear accountability for responding to consultations with defined process to ensure Member engagement										
	Financial penalties	National guidance interpreting legislation available and used regularly										
	Reduced service to customers	Risks and issues associated with Statutory functions incorporated into Directorate Risk Registers and regularly reviewed.										
	Inability to deliver council's plans	Clear accountability for horizon scanning, risk identification / categorisation / escalation and policy interpretation in place										
	Exposure to commercial pressures	Robust Committee forward plans to allow member oversight of policy issues and risk management, including Scrutiny and Audit										
	Reduced resilience and business continuity	Internal Audit Plan risk based to provide necessary assurances										
	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 Senior Members aware and briefed regularly in 1:1s by Directors Arrangements in place to source appropriate interim resource if needed 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.										

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		Probability	Impact Rating					Probability	Impact Rating					
L03 - CDC Local Plan - Failure to ensure sound, up to date local plan remains in place for Cherwell resulting in poor planning decisions such as development in inappropriate locations, inability to demonstrate an adequate supply of land for housing and planning by appeal	Poor planning decisions leading to inappropriate growth in inappropriate place.	4	4	16	Councillor D Sames	Ian Boll	David Peckford	3	4	12	Annual (Authority) Monitoring Reports presented to the Executive on plan making and policy effectiveness. A report will be prepared at the end of the calendar year. An updated LDS is scheduled to be presented to the Executive in September. Programme built into Directorate level objectives (e.g. via Service Plans) and staff appraisals; on-going preparation of the Local Plan is a service priority. A draft Plan is being presented to the Executive in September. Project management of the Local Plan process continues. Regular Corporate Director, Lead Member and Members Advisory Group briefings	Consultation on a draft of the Cherwell Local Plan Review started on 22 September 2023. A new programme for the Local Plan was agreed when the Council's Executive approved an updated 'Local Development Scheme' on 5 September.	Risk reviewed on 03/10/2023 - Comments updated	
	Negative (or failure to optimise) economic, social, community and environmental gain													
	Negative impact on the council's ability to deliver its strategic objectives, including its commitments within the Oxfordshire Housing & Growth Deal													
	Increased costs in planning appeals													
	Reputational damage with investor community of Cherwell as a good place to do business created by uncertainty/ lack of policy clarity													
L04 - Business Continuity - Failure to ensure that critical services can be maintained in the event of a short or long term incident impacting on the delivery of the Council's operations	Inability to deliver critical services to customers/residents	4	4	16	Councillor P Chapman	Ian Boll	Tim Hughes	2	3	6	BC exercises to be arranged BC Impact assessments and BCPs being updated and reviewed by OCC's Emergency Planning team with supporting document management system being implemented. Business Continuity Statement of Intent and Framework due to be reviewed to align with new incident management framework Cross-council BC Steering Group meets regularly to identify BC improvements needed; BC Steering Group has been reconvened, need to ensure engagement across all service areas.		Risk reviewed on 02/10/2023 - No changes	
	Financial loss/ increased costs													
	Loss of important data													
	Inability to recover sufficiently to restore non-critical services before they become critical													
	Loss of reputation													
	Reduced service delivery capacity in medium term due to recovery activity													
L05 - Emergency Planning (EP) - Failure to ensure that the local authority has plans in place to respond appropriately to a civil emergency fulfilling its duty as a category one responder	Inability of council to respond effectively to an emergency	4	4	16	Councillor P Chapman	Ian Boll	Tim Hughes	2	3	6	Emergency plan contacts list updated monthly and reissued to all duty managers periodically. Available on ELT Teams channel. Supporting officers for incident response reviewed and identified across some areas, to ensure they are reviewed and updated across all service areas.		Risk reviewed on 02/10/23 - No changes	
	Unnecessary hardship to residents and/or communities													
	Risk to human welfare and the environment													
	Legal challenge													
	Potential financial loss through compensation claims													
	Ineffective Cat 1 partnership relationships													
	Reputational damage													

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L06 - Safeguarding the Vulnerable – Operational and partnership actions -Failure to work effectively with partners to identify and protect vulnerable people in the district and disrupt exploitation leaving vulnerable people at risk or subject to exploitation.	Increased harm and distress caused to vulnerable individuals and their families.	4	4	Engagement with the Oxfordshire partnerships protocol review to identify improvements to local arrangements in support of the strategic partnerships. Outcomes of review to be implemented. Child Exploitation prevalence report reviewed with LPA Commander following each CE sub-group meeting. Community based exploitation disruption coordinated through the Joint Agency Tasking and Coordination Process.	Councillor P Chapman	Ian Boli	Tim Hughes	3	4	Need to re-engage with Oxfordshire partnerships protocol review to ensure outcomes relevant to CDC to be implemented Exploitation concerns and actions discussed routinely at Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordination meetings on a monthly basis		Risk reviewed on 02/10/23 - No changes
	Council subject to external reviews											
	Criminal investigations potentially compromised											
	Potential financial liability if council deemed to be negligent. Reputational damage to the council.											
L07 - Health and safety Failure to ensure effective arrangements are in place for Health and Safety.	Unsafe services leading to fatality, serious injury & ill health to employees, service users or members of the public	5	4	Corporate H&S governance arrangements and policies are regularly reviewed and updated by the Corporate H&S Team and monitored by the H&S Assurance Board. Directors and service leads are responsible for ensuring H&S arrangements are in place within their areas or responsibility. Managers are responsible for ensuring operational health and safety risks are assessed and effective control measures implemented. Consultation with employee representatives via employer and union consultative committees (Unison) Corporate H&S Training provided via corporate learning and development programme. Training for operational risks may be organised by services. H&S performance monitored by accident and incident reports and corporate H&S auditing and inspection programme. H&S information is disseminated via internal communications and updates to ELT and other relevant meetings.	Councillor S Dallimore	Claire Cox	Ruth Wooldridge	3	4	Corporate H&S Auditing and Inspection programme on track. Reports issued to managers and actions tracked for completion. Work ongoing with 2 audits per calendar month. Work still in progress with service areas around the corporate H&S register, which will be managed and monitored with a focus on the depots as our highest risk areas. Post decoupling senior management will have monthly monitoring of H&S matters as a standing item at senior management meetings. Relevant and required policies and procedures are being reviewed. Working with service areas to ensure that suitable risk assessments are in place.		Risk reviewed on 02/10/2023 - No changes
	Criminal prosecution for failings Breach of legislation and potential for enforcement action.											
	Financial impact (compensation or improvement actions)											
	Reputational Impact											

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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, a loss of service, cyber- ransom,	Financial loss / fine	4	5	20	Councillor S Dallimore	Stephen Hinds	David Spitsbury	3	5	A series of all-Council staff awareness sessions and members given presentations with the Police Cyber Security Advisor.		Risk reviewed on 03/10/2023 - No changes
	Prosecution – penalties imposed			Managing access permissions and privileged users through AD and individual applications					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					Cyber Security advice and guidance regularly highlighted to all staff.			
	Reduced capability to deliver customer facing services			Vulnerability scanning					Cyber Security is mandatory e-learning for all staff to be completed annually and is part of new starters induction training.			
	Unlawful disclosure of sensitive information			Malware protection and detection					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					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					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					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					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					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									
			Insider threat mitigated through recruitment and line management processes									
			A complete restructure and update of the technical approach for the infrastructure has resulted in a move to a zero trust model.									
			Advice received from NCSC on specific activity alerts, the increased threat of globalised ransomware and malware attacks.									

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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	4	16	Councillor P Chapman	Yvonne Rees	Nicola Riley	2	4	Action plan acted upon and shared with Overview and scrutiny committee once a year	Leisure Centre Safeguarding Audits, CDC completes safeguarding audits with the Leisure Centres ensuring policies and training are in place and spot checks on DBS's/ Training platforms. Internal Safeguarding Audits completed in August for the Youth Activity Workers /Holiday Hubs. This identified the safeguarding training was relevant and staff knowledge and understanding improved, confident in recognising and reporting signs of concern appropriately. Reporting concerns is an embedded practice across the sites and the staff are confident in safeguarding. 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. Self-Assessment/ Section 11 on target for submission 08/12/23. Safeguarding Action plan in process of review as part of the section 11.	Risk reviewed on 25/09/2023 - Comments updated		
	Council could face criminal prosecution													Annual refresher and new training programmes including training for new members
	Criminal investigations potentially compromised													Continue to attend safeguarding board sub groups as necessary to maintain high levels of awareness within the system and compliance with latest practice
	Potential financial liability if council deemed to be negligent													Corporate monitoring of all referrals
	Reputational damage to the council													Ensure web pages remain up to date
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	Councillor B Wood	Stephen Hinds	Kerry Wincott	2	3	6	A Shareholder Representative was appointed and regular governance arrangements are in place.	Risk reviewed 04/10/2023 - No changes		
	Failure of council owned companies to achieve their intended outcomes or fail to meet financial objectives												Resilience and support being developed across business to support and enhance knowledge around council companies.	
	Lack of understanding at officer and member level about the different roles of responsibilities required when managing council owned 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.	
													Sound monitoring in place of both business and financial aspects of the companies and the impact on overall council performance through the Shareholder Representative meetings and through the reporting to the Corporate Leadership Team monthly.	
								Training in place for those undertaking Director roles relating to the companies.						

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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	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. Service areas to ensure supplier suitability checks have been carried out prior to award of contract and hold meetings as required with suppliers to review higher risk areas and ensure risks are being managed. Reminders to be sent to all who have Procurement/Contract Management responsibility to regularly meet with key suppliers and partners to gain early understanding of any issues arising. Services areas to keep the key suppliers under regular check including running financial checks.	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.	Risk Reviewed 04/10/23 - Comments updated
	Business continuity planning arrangements in place in regards to key suppliers												
	Ensuring that proactive review and monitoring is in place for key suppliers to ensure we are able to anticipate any potential service failures												
	Intelligence unit set up procurement Hub to monitor supplier and contractor market												
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	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 29/09/23 - No changes	
	Risk of ultra vires activity or lack of legal compliance												
	Risk of fraud or corruption												
	Risk to financial sustainability if lack of governance results in poor investment decisions or budgetary control.												
	Failure of corporate governance in terms of major projects, budgets or council owned companies impacts upon financial sustainability of the council.												
	Inability to support Council's democratic functions / obligations (e.g. return to physical public meetings and public access to meetings).												
	Elements of the COVID-19 response and recovery work may be compromised, delayed or not taken forwards.												
Clear and robust control framework including: constitution, scheme of delegation, ethical walls policy etc.													
Clear accountability and resource for corporate governance (including the shareholder role).													
Integrated budget, performance and risk reporting framework.													
Corporate programme office and project management framework. Includes project and programme governance.													
Internal audit programme aligned to leadership risk register.													
Training and development resource targeted to address priority issues; examples include GDPR, safeguarding etc.													
HR policy framework.													
Annual governance statement process undertaken for 2021/22 connects more fully and earlier with ELT and CLT.													
Annual Review of the Constitution by the MO with member involvement and approval by the Full Council													

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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	Need to establish appropriate officer and stakeholder governance structures to support effective programme delivery. Need to institute regular and effective dialogue with developers.	Councillor D Ford	Ian Boli	Robert Jolley	4	3	Establishment of appropriate officer and stakeholder governance structures to support effective programme delivery Institute regular and effective dialogue with developers		Risk reviewed on 03/10/23 - No changes
	Delivery of Infrastructure projects fail to accelerate housing delivery as commercial pressures impact house builders											
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	Analysis of workforce data and on-going monitoring of issues.	Councillor S Dallimore	Yvonne Rees	Claire Cox	3	4	There are indications that specific service areas are beginning to experience recruitment difficulties for professional roles. HR is working with the relevant directors to consider alternative resourcing methods.		Risk reviewed on 29/09/2023 - No changes
	Impact on our ability to deliver high quality services			Key staff in post to address risks (e.g. strategic HR business partners)				Development of new L&D strategy, including apprenticeships.				
	Overreliance on temporary staff			Weekly Vacancy Management process in place				Development of relevant workforce plans.				
	Additional training and development costs			Ongoing service redesign will set out long term service requirements				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.				