

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Audit Committee		
DATE:	24 June 2024		
TITLE:	Corporate Risk Register monitoring report – May 2024		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Monitoring		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Performance		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Ged Greaves, Corporate Performance Manager		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
<p>This report presents an updated version of the register as at May 2024. It gives details of the risks falling into the 'Very High' category and the associated work being progressed to mitigate the effects.</p>
KEY ISSUES:
<p>The risk register was reviewed over Spring 2024. Following that review, there are no proposals to revise the score for any of the risks. There are no proposals to add or remove risks.</p>
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:
<p>Not applicable.</p>
RECOMMENDATIONS:
<p>Members are requested to consider:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) the Corporate Risk Register as at May 2024 and confirm agreement with Management Team's assessment of the risks to the corporate business plan.</p>
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
<p>In order to ensure the council meets its statutory obligations to ensure that it has 'effective arrangements in place for the management of risk'.</p>

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Strategy covering this reporting period were approved by Council in October 2022.
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee include responsibility for monitoring the management of risk. To this end, the committee receives reports on the position of the Corporate Risk Register, with the last one being presented to the committee on 16 January 2024. The latest report is for the period up to the end of May 2024.
- 1.3 Under the refreshed policy, the Corporate Risk Register is reviewed by Management Team on a 4-monthly basis. Existing entries on the register are considered for changes to the nature of the risk, progress to be reported and any adjustments to the risk scores. Risks that are no longer relevant are proposed for removal and new risks considered in the context of current circumstances are added.
- 1.4 A summary of the changes to the Corporate Risk Register since the last monitoring report are detailed in section 2 below. Details of the 'Very High' risks are given in Appendix 1 together with a list of the 'High' risks.
- 1.5 Each risk on the register is scored in terms of Impact and Likelihood, according to criteria defined within the Corporate Risk Management Strategy. The broad definitions and risk matrix are attached for reference in Appendix 2.
- 1.6 The full Corporate Risk Register, as agreed by Management Team, has been provided to the Audit Committee in hard copy, for reference.
- 1.7 Appendix 3 sets out the corporate risks in score order.
- 1.8 Attached at Appendix 4 is list of risks that have been removed from the register since May 2018.
- 1.9 Appendix 5 is a new summarised version of the risk register developed in response to the committee's requests.

2. Changes to the Corporate Risk Register

- 2.1 There continue to be pressures with inflation, interest rates and the cost of living. At the time of writing the report, the current Bank rate is 5.25% and inflation is 2.3% compared with a target of 2%.
- 2.2 Some forecasters project interest rates beginning to fall in 2024 to control persistent inflation. A prolonged period of high interest rates is anticipated to continue to impact upon household disposable income and business cashflow.
- 2.3 A general election will take place on 4 July 2024. New Government policies, programmes, legislation and financial settlements may have an impact upon the council and the community it serves and there may be delays in decision making arising from the time taken to establish the new Government. These will be monitored post-election.

2.4 Three issues have been recently identified as corporate risks and logged in the corporate risk register:

- A short term cashflow issue arose in March 2024 related to an unexpected payment from the Council to the Government. Mitigation has taken place to frequently check Government published funding inflows/outflows.
- Bowie Construction, a groundworks sub-contractor to Lovell Homes, filed for administration in March 2024. This is anticipated to delay completion of the Salters Road development and a more substantial delay/cost issue for Florence Fields project in King's Lynn. Mitigation is being progressed with Lovell Homes.
- Since the last risk register update, the Chief Executive and two Executive Directors announced retirements. Recruitment of the new Chief Executive has been concluded and a review of the scheme of delegation will support interim arrangements.

2.5. These impacts have been considered within the corporate risk register and particularly relate to the following risks:

- SR1. Financial sustainability
- SR3. Facilitating and enabling growth
- SR4. Community issues
- SR8. Reputation management
- SR12. Council owned companies
- SR14. Cost of living

3. Conclusion

3.1 The Corporate Risk Register continues to be actively monitored by Management Team on a periodic basis.

3.2 In this review, there are no proposals to revise risk scores.

3.2 There are no proposals to change the focus of risks although this may change in accordance with the new corporate business plan.

3.3 There are no proposals to transfer risks to directorate risk registers.

3.4 There are no proposed new entries to the risk register.

3.5 The register has been updated to reflect additional mitigation measures, actions and commentary on progress.

4 Corporate Priorities

4.1 The Corporate Risk Register is aligned with the previous Corporate Business Plan agreed in November 2021. The risk register will need to be reviewed to reflect the new corporate business plan.

5 Policy Implications

5.1 The updated register reflects emerging policy development related to climate change.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Corporate Risk Register is designed to assist senior management to identify and manage any financial implications identified through normal operations.

7 Personnel Implications

- 7.1 None.

8 Statutory Considerations

- 8.1 Account and Audit Regulations 2015 - s3(c). The council must ensure that it has 'effective arrangements for the management of risk'.

9 Equality Opportunity Considerations

- 9.1 None

10 Risk Management Implications

- 10.1 The council has in place a Risk Management Policy and Strategy.
- 10.2 The Corporate Risk Register records high level risks which pose a threat or opportunity to the council's objectives. It is a tool used by Management Team to help manage risk across the authority and is a key document within the governance controls applied within the council.

11. Environmental Implications

- 11.1 The risk register includes a number of climate change and environmental risks such as risks 5 - Continuity of service and 10 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation.

12 Recommendations

- 12.1 Members are requested to:
- a) note the change in format of the risk register;
 - b) consider the contents of the risk register;
 - c) confirm agreement with Management Team's assessment of the register.

13.0 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

- 13.1 None.

Background Papers

Previous Corporate Risk Registers reported to Audit Committee
Risk Management Policy and Strategy

APPENDIX 1 - Details of the ‘Very High’ risks together with a list of the ‘High’ risks

Risk name: 1 - Financial sustainability

Risk score = 20

Impact: Major (4)

Likelihood: Almost certain (5)

Description: Ineffective management of finances leading to a lack of financial resilience as government funding reduces and demand increases.

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>Cost management and income generation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively involve staff and Members in designing the cost management and income generation programme. 2. Maintain open channels of communication on plans/ proposed changes. 3. Keep staff and members informed of how the budget reductions are being managed. 4. Budget monitoring reports. 5. Finance is a standing item on Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet Briefings to align with the annual financial estimates cycle. <p>Financial Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A review of the costs and provision of all services will continue with the aim of mitigating costs where possible and other opportunities to improve the financial position. 2. Attendance at consultation updates from LGA / DLUHC / CIPFA. 3. Budgets will be monitored/reported against estimates on a regular basis. 4. Balanced and funded budget to 2024/25. 5. Capital and property investment strategy and related monitoring process. 6. At year end, planned and unplanned savings transferred to General Fund balance to adapt to reduction in central government funding. 7. Cabinet and SLT away days to focus on financial management. 8. Budget presentations to council panels. 9. Approach to budget setting and workshop themes (reviewing fees and charges, income generation, salaries, community benefit and staff engagement) including wider engagement with elected members. 10. Reviewing earmarked reserves to ensure we have sufficient funds to deliver corporate objectives. 	<p>Cost management and income generation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost management plan proposals in progress. Initial discussion between Cabinet and SLT, Oct 2023. ToR to be approved by SLT and report to transformation board, March 2024. Staff engagement sessions held, recommendations from PR action plan to inform CMIG plan. 2. 5% saving target will be supported by CMIG plan. <p>Financial Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Approach to budget setting and workshop themes being developed including wider engagement with SLT and elected members. Outline timetable for this work. Completed 3. Dates to be agreed for Non-domestic rate payer consultation, IDB meetings, member briefings and presentations, staff presentations ahead of Council Feb 2024. Completed. <p>PR action plan content to consider, wider public consultation and plan, engagement to be started earlier. New timetable to be developed bringing timescales for financial plan forward.</p> <p>Pension Fund</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend relevant briefings and workshops as required to understand announcements on Government funding and policy. Ongoing. <p>Business rates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor Government position with business rates retention. Ongoing 2. Provisional local government finance settlement announced Dec 2023 - changes implemented e.g. multiplier rate uplifted and billing updated. Ongoing monitoring of impact. 3. Monitoring of new legislative programme and announcements. Ongoing. 4. Attendance at relevant seminars and briefings. Ongoing. 5. Consideration of entering Business Rates Pool in 24/25. Entered into BR

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>Pension Fund</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 year valuation and 30 year plan. Next review 2025/26. 2. We have taken advantage of the one of lump sum in 2022/23. Because from the Pension Fund's aspect the council's funding strategy is classed as being ongoing, and a very long time horizon (30+ years) and is a secure employer, the Pension Fund can allow the Council to make stabilised contributions, which in effect smoothes the contribution profile so that it isn't subject to great peaks and troughs in contribution rates. The council can then budget with more certainty and consistency. One-off lump sum payments can also be paid at the start of the 3 year valuation period which secures savings for the Council. This can then be accounted for and budgeted for over the 3 year period. <p>Business rates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memorandum of Understanding determines allocation of funding from Norfolk Business Rates Pool. Local funding allocation will support priorities. 2. Continue to monitor potential areas of risk and work with LGA and business rates specialists where possible. 3. Continue working with major businesses to reduce the possibility of closure. 4. Ongoing monitoring of appeals and provision made to respond. Business Rates revaluation being undertaken in 2023, grant anticipated to cover losses to the council. 5. S31 grant provided to offset shortfall in income. <p>Rapidly rising costs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost management, fees and charges reflect full cost recovery and income generation activities. 2. Descoping elements of projects. 3. Phasing and reprioritisation of projects. 4. Use of external funding for projects. 5. Installation of efficient heating and lighting systems. 6. Generation of electricity through solar PV. 7. Lobbying through LGA/DCN for funding settlement. 8. Revisit financial plan to account for cost increases. 9. Use of some earmarked reserves. 10. Ongoing monitoring of issues and advice from Treasury experts. 	<p>Pool. Consideration of plans for 25/26. Ongoing.</p> <p>Council Tax</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legislation enabled additional schemes e.g. CT empty homes 1 apr 24, 2nd homes apr 25. Ongoing. <p>Rapidly rising costs (is it relevant)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and monitoring of costs and programmes/projects. Ongoing. 2. Seeking external funding for projects e.g. Funding for Guildhall project. Ongoing. 3. Post project monitoring and reporting of ReFIT framework and PSDS projects. Ongoing. Audit on PSDS and responding to requirements. 4. Financial Plan to reflect any inflationary increases going forward to be agreed by Council Feb 24. (delete BAU) 5. Allow for some earmarked reserves as part of closedown to cover additional costs that have materialised and direct to General Fund reserve. Ongoing. (delete BAU) 6. Ongoing development of staff regarding future supply chain resilience e.g procurement and corporate projects ("grow our own" approach). Capacity risk? 7. Reviewing resources to ensure sufficient capacity to deliver corporate objectives. Ongoing. Stat and discretionary services work - completed. 8. Further review of earmarked reserves to support funded budget position of year 3 of the financial plan to be completed August 2023. One third identified so far. Ongoing. Completed. 9. Additional resource to support Cost Management and Income Generation plan. Ongoing. Working Group to be established and some specific plans may require resourcing. 10. MoU for purchase of additional housing. Ongoing (UKR and Afghan refugees). Ongoing

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>11. Robust contracts.</p> <p>12. Provision of inflation within cost plan estimates for projects e.g. major housing projects. Towns Fund projects.</p> <p>13. Hybrid working policy enables some employees and members to minimise travel costs.</p> <p>14. Advantageous funding agreements with third parties e.g. New Anglia LEP.</p> <p>15. Lobbying in respect of IDB levies burden to the Council.</p> <p>16. Consideration and monitoring of energy cost reductions and link to MTFS.</p> <p>17. Review earmarked reserves.</p>	
Progress	
<p>Financial Plan and CMIG plan Budget approved Feb 2024, includes CMIG plan. Funded before for yrs 1 and 2, gap year 3 and 4 but if CMIG proposals delivered then we will close the budget gap in y3 and a sig reduction in y4 gap. Still room for further proposals to come forward. Good progress towards a sustainable budget. Productivity plan required by DHLUC, CMIG plan will work alongside this and Peer Review action plan.</p> <p>Pension Fund Council agreed to one off lump sum payment to secure savings in the financial plan. Annual contributions remain the same in percentage terms and reflected in the financial plan. Position fully documented in the annual Statement of Accounts. Currently in y2 of triennial period.</p> <p>Business rates Continue to be part of the Business Rates pool in 2024/25. Re-valuation implemented from 1 Apr 2023 and Government has thresholds and transitional reliefs to protect small businesses from significant increases. Situation will continue to be closely monitored. Recognise that one small change could have a significant upon the financial plan. Continue to take prudent approach in the financial plan.</p> <p>Rapidly rising costs Impact across many risks and projects. Interest rate rises have increased investment returns but the opportunity costs of investing in projects has also increased. Ongoing monitoring of prices and labour costs as demand/prices may begin to be more competitive. Providing longer term HR measures regarding training and development within internal workforce and supply chain. Ongoing monitoring of interest rates and inflation rate upon projects and budgets.</p> <p>Inflation is currently higher than BoE target rate of 2%. Ongoing monitoring of interest rates and inflation rate upon projects and budgets.</p> <p>IDBs Special interest group established for IDBs to consider changed funding mechanism. Ongoing.</p>	

Risk name: 3 - Facilitating and enabling growth

Risk score = 20

Impact: Major (4)

Likelihood: Almost certain (5)

Description: The inability of the council to facilitate and enable the market to deliver the council's growth agenda. This failure may reduce investment in infrastructure, inward investment, job opportunities, new housing and commercial development therefore impacting on communities and businesses.

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>Local employment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. KLIC and related skills & training initiatives with partners and business sectors.2. The release of Council owned employment land at Hardwick and Campbell's Meadows in KL and at St John's Business Estate in Downham Market.3. Information packs on the local area and to aid recruitment are provided on request.4. Maintain regular contact with Department for International Trade and market investment opportunities with them.5. Effectively handle enquires received direct, whether from inside or outside the Borough.6. Active involvement with New Anglia LEP.7. Enterprise Zone development.8. Use of external funds to de-risk developments.9. Gas main diversion completed at Nar Ouse.10. Towns Fund Youth and Retraining Pledge project.11. Norfolk Devolution Deal.12. UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund. <p>Empty retail properties/town centre decline</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continued support to businesses through hardship relief.2. Active management of lettings and promotion of a positive image of the town to potential businesses.3. Initiatives to promote the town to visitors, shoppers and businesses.4. Town Centre Partnership/BID.5. Transport and town centre studies.6. Bids for external funding such as Town Fund, Levelling Up, etc.7. Improvements to key access roads and junctions.8. Management capacity.9. Covid 19 response to reopening high street.10. Payment plans for commercial tenants.	<p>Local employment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Local Plan review - employment land (current allocated land is unviable due to need to raise levels). Ongoing.2. Ongoing monitoring of Levelling Up proposals and support to increase the numbers of people to fulfil roles at all skill levels post-Covid/EU Transition. Ongoing.3. Apprenticeships/ training programmes encouraged within major housing contracts and sub-contractors, Mar 22. BCKLWN appointed 1 trainee. Ongoing.4. Explore options for innovation centres, advanced manufacturing centres of excellence, etc through Government funding. Ongoing.5. Shared Prosperity Fund and development of West Norfolk Investment Plan to improve work-based skills programme. Implementation ongoing. Final year 2024/25 of SPF funding prior to transfer to NCC (subject to devo deal), influencing priorities for investment, agreed by Cabinet e.g. funding Boost project.6. Consideration of Youth and Re-Training Pledge Project and broader role going forward. Ongoing. <p>Empty retail properties/town centre decline</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Actively identifying opportunities to repurpose vacant retail units including conversion to residential and creating flexible pop up retail opportunities for micro-businesses/niche retailers plus community based organisations. Ongoing.2. Implementing approved business cases for MUCH, Guildhall and Riverfront. Ongoing3. Explore alternative purposes for King's Lynn Town Centre - Town Investment Plan viewing the town centre as a multi-purpose destination rather than just retail. Ongoing.4. Development of the car parking strategy. Ongoing.5. Levelling Up Fund (LUF) submission for replacement of Oasis, Hunstanton. Unsuccessful bid and Govt allocated funding to areas unsuccessful in round 2 of Levelling UP, options under review.6. Proposals submitted for DLUCH and Devolution funding. Ongoing.

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>11. Change in use class Order E. 12. Town Investment Plan. 13. Brownfield land within town centres released for housing. 14. Towns Fund approved business case for Active and Clean Connectivity, Public Realm improvements, Guildhall, MUCH and Riverfront.</p> <p>5 year land supply, housing delivery and housing delivery test. 1. 5 year plan (subject to delivery of Parkway and Lynnsport 1 developments). 2. Work on the LDF to ensure the Council can evidence that sufficient land is available. 3. Also approve applications to boost the supply in the short-medium term.</p> <p>Housing market 1. West Norfolk Property Limited able to take over any surplus housing stock to rent out until the market picks up, if needed. 2. NORA Phase 4 - 50% of development will be rented properties. 3. A viability review of the market will be carried out before the decision to commence each phase is taken.</p> <p>Strategic land and property acquisition 1. Continue to identify, and acquire, property/land for future development/investment. Failure to do so leads to the risk of missed opportunities and associated loss of potential income. 2. Officer Major Projects Board in place to assist in coordination and oversight of developments. 3. Member Major Projects Board. 4. Land and property due diligence checks.</p> <p>West Winch/North Runcton Strategic Growth Area 1. Project and programme management approach. 2. Stakeholder engagement. 3. Commissioning technical expertise. 4. Communications and engagement support. 5. Norfolk County Council undertaking the design and planning permission for the road. 6. Successful bid approved by Norfolk Business Rate Pool. 7. Link with Officer Major Projects Board. 8. Project board established.</p>	<p>7. High Streets taskforce project. Ongoing.</p> <p>5 year land supply, housing delivery and housing delivery test 1. Supporting the Local Plan review process. Ongoing.</p> <p>Housing market 1. Monitor for potential signs that the increase in prices/labour force issues impacts upon the development sector and contingencies within contract sums. Ongoing. 2. The percentage of PRS delivered on major housing sites will be reviewed in the light of current market conditions. Ongoing. 3. Monitor Help to Buy policy developments. Ongoing.</p> <p>Strategic land and property acquisition 1. Consider the council's development role and related pipeline of land for future housing development. Ongoing. 2. To ensure that we maximise our own opportunities for example Boal Quay, and Punny Drain and deliver sites that we already have e.g. Enterprise Zone and development opportunities along the promenade if the Oasis sites releases land. Ongoing. 3. Review the delegated decision (Capital and Local Property Investment Fund Strategy 2017 – 2021, Cabinet 21st January 2017) for property acquisition.</p> <p>West Winch/North Runcton Strategic Growth Area 1. Stakeholder engagement. Ongoing. 2. Clarification of resources via Homes England.</p> <p>Improvements to heritage buildings 1. Delivery of Guildhall Towns Fund business case. Ongoing. 2. Delivery of Riverfront Towns Fund business case. Ongoing.</p>

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>9. External legal and professional advice. 10. Periodic review of potential state aid issues. 11. SOBC bid in for DfT funding for the road. Improvements to heritage buildings 1. Identify and apply for relevant 3rd party funding. 2. Most large investment projects for historic buildings have already been completed in the past. 3. Ensure provision is made in the Capital and Property Investment Strategy and Financial Plan to enable the Council to meet any fund matching required by 3rd party funding. 4. HAZ Programme Manager in place (programme ends July 2022). 5. Towns Fund projects; Guildhall, Riverfront and Public Realm 6. Southgates masterplan.</p>	
Progress	
<p>Local employment Land at Downham Market and NORA is actively marketed. The KLIC has a stable but high occupancy. A marketing plan for the Nar Ouse Business Park Enterprise Zone implemented. Nar Ouse site infrastructure & Phase 1 premises construction progressing. LEP financing helps to de-risk the development. Engagement with the BID. Early interest shown by several local companies seeking to expand. Ongoing uncertainty arising from macro-economic events may delay company investment decisions and employment levels. Management restructure strengthened focus on regeneration. External funding being progressed via sources such as Towns Fund, Levelling Up and UKSPF. New businesses enquiries being received and a role to open up new allocated employment land in Borough. Pressures upon resilient supply chains continue. Local evidence of high vacancies within some employers. National data indicates more vacancies than labour supply in many sectors. Rising cost of living placing pressures on households with potential consequences for spending in the local economy. Inflation leading to rising business costs coupled with interest rate increases. West Norfolk Investment Plan proposes a package of investments to help drive the economy and related outcomes. Employment rates remain high and the town's strong manufacturing base underpins its status as a centre for sub-regional employment. Annual Visitor Economy Report indicates sustained increase in GVA. Signs of decline of large national multiples and growth in independent businesses. Performance indicators highlight commercial property arrears and challenges faced by some tenants, town centre parking levels have recovered from Covid-19 lows. UKSPF West Norfolk Grant Scheme and West Norfolk Rural Business Capital Grants operational in 2023.</p> <p>Also link to Risk SR9 - Organisational change.</p> <p>Empty retail properties/town centre decline National retail statistics indicate reductions in town centre footfall compounded by ongoing economic uncertainty and behavioural shift to online shopping. Range of national retailers and hospitality businesses reducing their town centre operations. Events programme and initiatives to promote the town recommenced. Opportunities to improve new housing delivery in the town centre. Town centre car parking remains below pre-Covid-19 levels. Some signs of churn within town centre premises and property market.</p>	

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>Town Deal Repurposing project indicates that a few large King's Lynn town centre premises closed due to wider economic factors but businesses are churning. Market failure does not appear to be demonstrated in King's Lynn relative to other towns due its unique geopolitical and economic attributes. Project funding reallocated from Towns Fund but continuing to look at alternative funding options.</p> <p>Cost of living challenges may reduce household disposable income and impact upon some businesses. Risks around low consumer confidence could negatively impact retail and hospitality.</p> <p>No opportunity to submit a Round 3 Levelling Up Fund submission. Proposals submitted for DLUCH funding. Western access road to NORA, link to Active Travel Hub site and School of Nursing, 2 second floor facility. Projects also linked to Norfolk County Council Devolution and additional £10m funding but decision on distribution methodology awaited.</p> <p>High Streets taskforce project and proposals on purpose/function of town centre in progress including workshops.</p> <p>Discussions with private sector owners of town centre retail premises in respect of alternative forms of development ongoing.</p> <p>Submission being developed for Long Term Plan for Towns funding and additional preparatory work involving reshaped King's Lynn Town Board.</p> <p>5 year land supply, housing delivery and housing delivery test</p> <p>New housing delivery target of 95%, BCKLWN performance is 95% so no action plan will be required.</p> <p>National housing delivery figures published annually in November.</p> <p>Being assessed as part of Local Plan review process. Examination held in Nov 2022 and ongoing. Examination in process, hearing sessions resumed early 2024.</p> <p>Government proposing to change housing delivery test. Councils with an adopted Local Plan will only need to demonstrate a a 4 year housing land supply.</p> <p>Housing market</p> <p>Exit strategy being developed by West Norfolk Property Company for private rented sector properties from major housing schemes. Link with the Accelerated Construction Programme. Seven additional sites being developed and brought forward faster than the original programme. Need to balance market absorption rate across the range of developments. Potential external impacts leading to drop in house prices and demand, supply side issues affecting the construction industry and rental values.</p> <p>The tenure type on the remaining properties has changed and there is no longer a market risk associated with these properties. In terms of market housing, BCKLWN is main housing developer in the borough. Rents have remained high. Low stock of high quality properties. Few new homes or affordable homes available. Market absorption - end of Help to Buy scheme Dec 2022, sales completion by end Mar 23. Stamp duty changes had minor effect on local housing market. 80% of open mkt sales via Help to Buy. NORA4 - open market sales completed. Inflation and interest rates reducing home buying demand with potential for impact upon private sector rental values.</p> <p>Rapid house price inflation and anecdotal evidence of shrinkage of the private rented sector at a time of high demand leading to increased requirements for upfront and larger rental deposits. Private rents becoming increasingly unaffordable for low income households. Emerged early in 2022 and has continued. Evidence, locally and nationally, of an exodus of private sector landlords resulting in more pressure upon existing stock and feeding into difficulties for families accessing private rented properties which exacerbates homelessness.</p> <p>Signs of slowdown in national house building. Rental costs rising rapidly and consequences with PSL exiting the market and homelessness.</p> <p>Help to buy equity loan stopped - barrier to new homeownership but partially offset by cooling in house prices, wage growth and cooling of mortgage interest rates.</p>	

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>Strategic land and property acquisition Cabinet has considered reports relating to the acquisition of specific property/investment opportunities in King's Lynn town centre and around the South Gates. Additional member led governance via Member Major Projects Board.</p> <p>Work ongoing to broaden the range of development tools available to the council including taking options on development sites. Prudential Code changes prohibit investment for commercial returns.</p> <p>West Winch/North Runcton Strategic Growth Area Project team meetings, meetings with partners, project management approach to scheme development and implementation, use of external support to provide technical support and capacity. Extensive stakeholder engagement with MPs, MHCLG, Homes England, etc. Bid submitted to the Norfolk Business Rates Pool to contribute towards outline planning for the site, an equalisation agreement and supplementary planning document. External professional advice sought upon issues such as state aid. Strategic Outline Business Case submitted by Norfolk County Council and awaiting decision. Extensive stakeholder engagement undertaken in 2022 and scheduled for 2023. New requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain to be clarified.</p> <p>Improvements to heritage buildings The HAZ programme ended in March 2022 and no scheme related to heritage buildings has been completed. The opportunity through High Street HAZ was withdrawn as further opportunities did not materialise. Re-purposing work in the Town Investment Plan will not necessarily look at older at risk buildings. The preservation work on the Sommerfeld and Thomas warehouse (TIP) is the one of few projects to save historic assets.</p> <p>Activities related to the Guildhall and Riverfront are covered within approved Towns Fund business cases and earmarked for significant investment in addition to public realm improvements. This will help mitigate risks regarding heritage assets.</p> <p>Southgates masterplan work progressing and Levelling Up bid approved.</p> <p>Potential for Norfolk Devolution Deal contribution to growth in the borough.</p>	

Risk name: 4 - Community issues

Risk score = 20

Impact: Major (4)

Likelihood: Almost certain (5)

Description: The risk of various communities within the borough feeling excluded, disengaged or being unable to access available services and opportunities including, rural, deprived, minority and vulnerable communities and local businesses etc. Services and opportunities to include health and wellbeing, early intervention and prevention. Immediate and longer term economic and societal impact of Covid-19 global pandemic on BCKLWN communities.

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>Community relations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Council works closely with partner agencies in the area to make sure that any issues are identified and effectively tackled as soon as possible.2. External funding bids with partners.3. Agreement with Shelter.4. PREVENT task group and workstreams.5. Prevent awareness training provided to employees. <p>Preventing homelessness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Staff capacity.2. ICT development to support case management.3. Support commissioned from voluntary and community sectors.4. Partnership and network arrangements.5. Communications support.6. Accommodation options improved by Broad Street.7. Reduction in working age population.8. Housing Market Assessment to be undertaken, Dec 2023. Ongoing. <p>Conflicting aims (with partners)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clarify and agree with partners what the common targets are and how achievement of them will be recognised.2. Terms of Reference or SLA's are agreed for each group to define the aims and respective roles and focus on core services plus specific projects.3. Ensure active participation on relevant Boards/ Groups.4. Norfolk Resilience Forum response and recovery work.5. King's Lynn Town Deal Board and Local Assurance Framework.6. Hunstanton Advisory Group established.7. King's Lynn Town Deal Skills Forum.	<p>Community relations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Housing availability for vulnerable residents. Ongoing. <p>Preventing homelessness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Asylum seekers - potential placings under review, Mar 20222. Consider impact of proposed legislation on second homes (Review impact of second homes measures and exemptions within the Levelling Up Bill).3. Consideration to be given to re-examining social housing provision and exploration of measures to mitigate the reduction in private rented sector capacity. Refocus efforts on providing additional social and private rented housing. Now considering acquiring housing from third parties for both affordable and PRS given the acute need for both tenures. Ongoing.4. Refresh housing needs assessment, Spring 235. Identification of additional temporary accommodation with Freebridge.6. Measures with Freebridge to support quick void turn around.7. Reid Way - 7 new units to be developed.8. Financial help to access private rented sector.9. Winter preparedness plans. <p>Conflicting aims (with partners)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure comms focusing on neutral and factual stance and related to implementation of Govt policy. Ongoing2. Work with Hanseatic Union to implement and provide measures to support refugees and support in a neutral way. Ongoing3. Internal comms to be mindful of potential for tensions should the Council be perceived to be biased. Ongoing.4. Consider contingency plan for potential loss of Fenland care and repair contract. Dec 2022. Ongoing.5. Consideration for potential loss of Household Support Fund. Ongoing.

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>8. Shared Prosperity Fund stakeholder groups established.</p> <p>9. Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.</p> <p>10. Health and Wellbeing Partnership established and terms of reference agreed.</p>	<p>6. Introduction of revised Council Tax support scheme. Ongoing.</p>
<p>Progress</p>	
<p>Community relations Council works closely with the police and Freebridge in Safer Neighbourhood action panels and the neighbourhood officers are now a formal part of the joint Operational Partnership Team. Our agreement with Shelter has allowed for a more effective response to issues of harassment and illegal eviction. Multi-agency responses to Ukraine and cost of living with support for vulnerable households. ASB represented on PREVENT task group and workstream. Engagement with Integrated Care System to encourage prevention and wider involvement of health. Continued support for asylum seekers. Potential impact upon homelessness response and perceptions of support. Potential challenges for refugee support related to host/sponsor relationships, desire to move on, etc. Work ongoing at county level. Equality Impact Assessments on housing funds. Cabinet report 31 Oct 2023 - support for care leavers.</p> <p>Preventing homelessness Current issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased pressures arising from housing market changes related to changing lifestyles prompted by Covid-19 and home working compounded by a rapid change in private rental market capacity with landlords selling properties given buoyant house prices. 2. Potential issue that housing availability and support may not be in place in the future for refugees that are seeking to move on from their current accommodation. 3. Impact of refugee accommodation compounding and already stretched private rented sector market, increasing pressure on communities. 4. Cost of living pressures increasing likelihood of loss of tenancies and increase in homelessness applications. 5. Slow void turnaround time of social stock and low levels of existing social stock. <p>Discussion with council owned housing companies; aware of nature and scale of issues. Exploring related crisis intervention and funding with partners. New Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy in development and will include a deep analysis of problem, consideration of interventions and trial new accommodation services. More Govt resources dedicated towards challenge - ringfenced Homelessness Prevention Grant. Lack of social housing stock continues resulting in a high level of bed and breakfast usage. Further national challenges arising from stock condition surveys, damp and mould surveys, a new Decent Homes Standard, EPC ratings and rental cap. Changes in taxation and interest rates leading to a widening gap between Local Housing Allowance and private sector rents. Housing Market Assessment to be procured and undertaken, Dec 2023. Anecdotal data suggests changes in family living arrangements becoming more prevalent.</p> <p>Conflicting aims (with partners) Engagement with Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System / Integrated Care Partnership. Collaborative work with members of Norfolk Climate Change Partnership and working on a Norfolk-wide project. Ongoing dialogue with Norfolk County Council regarding devolution and Government funding streams e.g. Towns Fund, Levelling Up, Shared Prosperity Fund. Further examples include Ukraine response with neighbouring councils despite differences in funding,</p>	

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>liaison between organisations represented on the Town Deal Board, Business Rates Pooling and Hunstanton Advisory Group. Development work with the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.</p> <p>Israel/Gaza - minor signs of community issues.</p> <p>Household Support Fund due to end March 2024. Council Tax support scheme 100% support introduced in 2024. Increasing financial pressures on some community care service providers - support being considered but early days. Consultation with Norfolk County Council regarding Lily indicate potential challenges to other support services.</p>	

Risk name: 9 - Organisational change

Risk score = 20

Impact: Major (4)

Likelihood: Almost certain (5)

Description: Ensuring that the council, its members and its workforce have the skills, resources, ability and capacity to adequately respond to current and future organisational change meaning the council is able to deliver its services in the most efficient and effective manner.

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<p>Capacity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use of agency and interim staff.2. Improve staff resilience/ cross training.3. Service and management restructures and related recruitment and development.4. Absence management.5. Use of apprentices.6. Use of external support for Towns Fund business case development, subsidy control and independent appraisal.7. Review of Planning resource and additional posts.8. New Executive Director post.9. Restarted management development programme.10. Progression scheme for a range of specialist roles.11. Apprenticeship opportunities to develop resources. <p>Channel shift/Digital services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Engage with the operational staff and systems admin, who understand the back office system.2. Involvement in Norfolk County Council digital inclusion strategy. <p>Pay pressures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Government's public sector pay restraint has had an impact on recruitment and retention for some Council services. Government policy for 2021 was a pay freeze in the public sector. Signs of some relaxation of national public sector pay policy in certain areas which could have a further impact on our ability to recruit and retain suitably qualified and experienced staff in certain areas. This in turn could prompt the need to review local pay arrangements, with associated financial implications.2. Ongoing monitoring of Government public sector pay policies.	<p>Capacity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review recruitment issues. Ongoing and responsive to requirements and market conditions.2. Considering progression schemes across service areas. Ongoing.3. Senior officer recruitment activities commenced. Ongoing.4. Comms plan for senior officer changes. Ongoing.5. Recruitment of Chief Executive. Completed.6. Transformation Board and work programme to be established. Ongoing. <p>Channel shift</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Migration to Office 365, Mar 232. Developing Microsoft Sharepoint InSite linked to the cloud, Mar 233. Engaging with staff re: developments to Insite to improve internal comms and document sharing, Mar 23.4. Learning workshops for ICT staff on Sharepoint, Mar 235. Review of different methods of interaction with customers with different services. Ongoing.6. Undertaking a review of internal communications. Ongoing.7. Working group on Sharepoint/Insite. Ongoing. <p>Pay pressures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Monitoring of national pay award. Ongoing.2. Some roles requiring particular qualifications are being considered in advance of future recruitment, Ongoing.3. Appropriate allowances for pay to be made within the budget and financial plan. Ongoing.4. Monitoring of recruitment challenges and introduction of progression schemes. Ongoing.5. S151 Officer to review the financial implications and identify funding of the proposals. Ongoing.6. Consider implications for erosion of pay differentials in respect of improving recruitment and retention. Ongoing.

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
Progress	
<p>Capacity Established training regime to enable colleagues to cover for each other's absences. New procedures developed with Senior Leadership Team for engagement of external workers. Some signs of turnover increasing, need to improve attractiveness and competitiveness to attract candidates. 6 months notice given by CExec to provide time for recruitment, Sept 2024. Several senior officers retiring within next 6 months with related recruitment activity. Comms plan developed in response. Recruitment activities implemented. 23/24 May interviews scheduled. External company, Penna supporting process. Previous structural changes introduced additional ED role supported by comprehensive and experienced AD team. Interim working arrangements for transition period being planned such as scheme of delegation.</p> <p>Channel shift Work is concentrating on customer facing aspects to engage fully with the public and reduce the need for more staff intensive means of communication, such as telephone enquiries. Customer contact migrated to telephones/online which are more cost effective methods. Work is ongoing with Environmental Health to achieve full integration with IDOX. Represented on a pilot project being undertaken in west Norfolk relating to digital access skills and attainment, which is part of the county council's strategy programme. Working group to be established regarding corporate use of Sharepoint software including InSite intranet development. Consultation with community linked with Peer Review action plan (first section of PR action plan check with Mark and Marmot Place).</p> <p>Pay pressures Continue to closely monitor the Government's public sector pay policy and pay settlements agreed in the wider public sector/private sector. Provision for some movement in pay costs has been included in the financial plan. There is a timing risk related to determination of local pay award arrangements and national pay agreement. National employers not responding to pay claims until after local authority elections.</p>	

Risk name: 14 - Cost of living

Risk score = 20

Impact: Major (4)

Likelihood: Almost certain (5)

Description: The cost of living crisis caused by rapidly rising inflation (energy, food, household items, etc) and interest rates may result in more families and households experiencing poverty and unemployment, which may lead to increased levels of service demand on the Council and place additional pressure on front-line services, staff and councillors.

Existing Mitigation and Controls	Planned mitigating actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Standing item on Management Team.2. LGA cost of living hub https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/safer-and-more-sustainable-communities/cost-living-hub/cost-living-external-resources3. Corporate officer team established.4. Promotion of fuel oil group buying scheme.5. Promotion of Solar Together group buying scheme.6. Promotion of national grants e.g. boiler upgrade scheme.7. Externally funded projects to fully fund insulation in targeted properties.8. "Beat your bills" events across the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. "Beat your Bills events". Initial events completed. Further programme of events. Ongoing.2. Officer Working Group. Review of remit. May 2024.3. FAQs analysis undertaken, content developed and posted to the website. Regularly updated. Ongoing.4. Reviewing promotion of information to foodbank, web content, town centre events. Ongoing work and preparations for information and support for winter 2023/24. Completed.
Progress	
Corporate officer group remit to be reviewed in May 2024. Promotion of schemes to reduce energy costs e.g. fuel oil buying and installation of solar PV and battery storage. "Beat your bills" events held across borough in Sept 2022 and extended programme scheduled. Collaboration with Norfolk Warm Homes to encourage targeted take up of insulation and heating systems. Information included employees, residents and customers. Website analysis of search hits undertaken to inform future content. Government extended Householder Support Funding in Budget 2024. Energy prices reducing.	

Risks categorized as 'High Risk' (Score 10-12)

Ref	Title	The risk that:	Score
2	Significant programmes/projects	Impact on the delivery of council services due to the failure of major programmes/projects. A major programme/project being any project that can cause significant financial, legal, reputational or compliance issues or prevent the council from delivering a strategic priority or key objective.	12
5	Continuity of service	The council's ability to effectively respond to a major emergency and maintain that response without affecting essential day to day service delivery. The risk is to both the council as a business continuity issue and to our vulnerable communities.	12
6	Data management and security	Deliberate or unintentional loss/disclosure of personal, sensitive, confidential or business critical information or breach of information governance legislation.	12
7	Corporate Governance	The risk of failures in systems of governance within the council, within council owned/influenced organisations and partnerships and other collaboration arrangements, leading to governance issues, fraud and corruption, failures in management systems, poor policy and decision making.	12
8	Reputation management	The risk that the council's reputation is damaged by major service failure, failure to respond to a significant incident(s), governance issues, dispute with a key partner, failure to deliver corporate business plan.	12
10	Climate change mitigation and adaptation	Inability to mitigate and adapt to climate change - increased coastal erosion and flooding and failure to meet net zero target with consequent reputational issues.	12
11	Statutory compliance	Implementation and maintenance of statutory compliance management systems. E.g. health and safety, service related legal obligations.	12
12	Council owned companies	Managing performance, finances, liabilities and the relationship between the Council and its wholly owned companies in accordance with the governance agreements.	12
13	Contract/ Supply failure	Managing contracts with key suppliers to ensure the continued delivery of an effective service and ensure delivery of the council's priorities and objectives.	12

APPENDIX 2 - After May 2024 review

LIKELIHOOD

5 Almost Certain	(Green)	(Orange)	(Red)	(Red) 1, 3, 4, 9, 14	(Red)
4 Likely		(Green)	(Orange) 8	(Red)	(Red)
3 Possible		(Green)	(Green)	(Orange) 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13	(Red)
2 Unlikely			(Green)	(Green)	(Orange)
1 Rare					(Green)
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Extreme

IMPACT

Risk Category	How the Risk should be managed
Very High Risk (15 – 25) (Red)	Immediate action required. Senior Management must be involved.
High Risk (10 – 12) (Orange)	Senior Management attention needed and management responsibility specified.
Medium Risk (5 – 9) (Green)	Manage by specific monitoring or response procedures. Responsibility to be allocated by Management Team to a named Service Manager.
Low Risk (1 – 4) (White)	Manage by routine procedures, unlikely to need specific or significant application of resources.

APPENDIX 3 - Corporate risks in score order

Ref	Title	Score
1	Financial sustainability	20
3	Facilitating and enabling growth	20
4	Community issues	20
9	Organisational change	20
14	Cost of living	20
2	Significant programmes/ projects	12
5	Continuity of service	12
6	Data management and security	12
7	Corporate Governance	12
8	Reputation management	12
10	Climate change mitigation and adaptation	12
11	Statutory compliance	12
12	Council owned companies	12
13	Contract/ Supply failure	12

APPENDIX 4 - Corporate risk removed from the register

Title	The risk is that:	Risk removed
New regulations regarding HMOs	Managing private rented properties to be MEES compliant.	Aug 2022
Modern Slavery	An emerging national issue has local impacts within the Borough given its demographic and economic profile.	Aug 2022
Financial ledger software implementation and development	Failure to effectively implement and develop software in accordance with required timescales, resulting in disruption to service delivery, processing times, impact on Council reputation and ability to meet mandatory financial reporting deadlines.	May 2022
VAT	The Housing Stock Transfer had a potentially significant impact from April 2007 on the Council's ability to reclaim VAT on purchases and could result in a big increase in expenditure (possibly £200k).	May 2022
VAT - Trust arrangements	If subject to an audit, HMRC may not agree that the model used to establish the new leisure arrangements is valid in respect of claiming VAT exemptions.	Jun-19
Revenues and Benefits software tender	Failure of tender process to procure an appropriate software solution and/or the ability to effectively implement new software in accordance with required timescales, resulting in disruption to service delivery, processing times and impact on Council reputation	Jun-19
Fire compartmentalisation	Elements of King's Court are declared unsafe for habitation based on a fire safety assessment by either the Crown fire officer or BCKLWN's fire officer.	Jun-19
THi 2 Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund	Important parts of King's Lynn continue to be in a dilapidated state giving a very poor image of the town	Jun-19
Waste and Recycling Contract	The Council will not have the required vehicles or manpower to supply waste collection services if Kier, who currently have the contract to provide the service, terminate the contract at short notice.	Oct-18
King's Court	Relocation of partner organisations into King's Court risks disruption to and potential loss of/impact on services currently delivered from the site. There is also the risk of loss of income/higher implementation costs associated with moving external teams into the building.	May-18