

Finance Risk Register (Appendix B)

											DATE LAST REVIEWED:	11/04/2018	
REF	DIVISION	RISK TITLE & DESCRIPTION (a line break - press alt & return - must be entered after the risk title)	RISK CAUSE & EFFECT	RISK CATEGORY	GROSS RISK RATING (See next tab for guidance)			EXISTING CONTROLS IN PLACE TO MITIGATE THE RISK	CURRENT RISK RATING (See next tab for guidance)			FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED	RISK OWNER
					LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RISK RATING		LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RISK RATING		
1	Finance	Gaps in Insurance cover Failure to ensure that sufficient insurance cover is in place with the result that Council assets may not be adequately covered and that claims in excess of our current excess (£125k - Public Liability) could be turned down by our insurance company	Cause(s): 1. Incorrect/incomplete asset/risk data provided to insurer. 2. Total level of insurance insufficient e.g. to cover damage to multiple high value assets. 3. Uninsurable risks e.g. criminal/regulatory fines. Effect(s): Inadequate or no insurance cover could have significant financial implications, dependent on the value of the asset and the extent of the damage / loss.	Financial - Operational	1	4	4	1. Maintain schedule of all property, vehicles and plan to be insured by the Council 2. Maintain a register of all insurance premiums paid each year 3. Independent check on all such records by internal / external audit and professional insurance brokers.	1	3	3		James Mullender
2	Finance	Financial Market Volatility Financial loss arising from the volatility of financial markets.	Cause(s): Market volatility, recession, banking failure Effect(s): We do not maximise our interest earnings on balances and could also suffer the following issues - Liquidity, Interest rate, Exchange rate, Inflation, Credit and counterparty, Refinancing, legal and regulatory risks	Financial - Operational	3	5	15	1. Regular strategy meetings 2. Use of external advisors 3. Internal Audit review of activities 4. Quarterly reporting to E&R PDS Committee (Members) 5. Adoption of CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 6. Regular meetings / discussions with external auditors 7. Treasury management strategy	2	4	8		James Mullender
3	Finance	Capital Income Shortfall Inability to generate capital receipts	Cause(s): Property price reductions as a result of the economic environment. Falling number of assets available for disposal Effect(s): Financial	Economic - Strategy	3	4	12	1. Close monitoring of spend and income 2. Reporting to Members 3. Tight control of spending commitments 4. Quarterly reports on capital receipts (actual and forecast) to Executive.	2	3	6		James Mullender
4	Finance	Pension Fund The pension fund not having sufficient resources to meet all liabilities as they fall due	Cause(s): 1. Investment markets fail to perform in line with expectations 2. Market yields move at a variance with assumptions 3. Investment managers fail to achieve their targets over the longer term 4. Longevity horizon continues to expand 5. Deterioration in pattern of early retirements 6. Administering authority unaware of structural changes in an employer's membership e.g. large fall in employee members, large number of retirements Effect(s): Financial	Financial - Operational	3	5	15	1. Use of external advice. 2. Financial: Monitoring of investment returns - analysis of valuation reports 3. Demographic: Longevity horizon monitored at triennial reviews - quarterly review of retirement levels 4. Regulatory: Monitor draft regulations and respond to consultations - actuarial advice on potential where appropriate 5. Internal audit review of activities, performance, controls etc. 6. Quarterly reports to Pensions Investment Sub-Committee 7. Funding Strategy Statement 8. Statement of Investment Principles 9. Communications Policy 10. Governance Policy 11. Triennial valuation by actuary 12. Strategic asset allocation review.	2	4	8	Seeking opportunities for future 'gifting'	Director of Finance
5	Finance	Failure to deliver a sustainable Financial Strategy which meets with BBB priorities and failure of individual departments to meet budget	Cause(s): 1. As a consequence of significant Government funding reductions (austerity is expected to continue beyond 2019/20), need to reduce the Council's significant 'budget gap' of £38.7 m per annum by 2021/22. 2. The Government's aim is to transform 'local government, enabling it to be self-sufficient by the end of Parliament' e.g. business rates to be fully devolved to local government by 2020/21. A future national recession could have a significant impact on income generated to fund key services within a fully devolved model. 3. Failure to meet departmental budgets due to increased demand on key services resulting in overspends: (Housing (homelessness and cost of bed and breakfast); Social Care (welfare reform and ageing population); and Waste (growing number of households). 4. The risk of the Council not being able to carry out its statutory duties (e.g. pupil admissions, school improvement, child protection) as a consequence of funding reductions. 5. Dependency on external grants to fund services (schools and housing benefits are ring-fenced) - effect if grant reduces (Public Health services) or ceases. 6. The new national living wage will have cost implications to the Council over the next few years (e.g. care providers and carers). 7. As the local government core grant is fully phased out, local government will take on new funding responsibilities e.g. public health, housing benefit administration for pensioners. With ageing population there will be associated cost pressures. 8. Impact of welfare reforms and the phased roll out of Universal Credit. 9. Failure to identify and highlight frauds and weaknesses in the system of internal control (which invariably have a financial impact). Overall, fraud losses are mainly benefit related (Council Tax Support / Single Person Discount). Effect(s): - Increased overspends in particular services - Council unable to carry out its statutory duties due to services cuts - Reputational damage - Failure to achieve our Building a Better Bromley priorities.	Financial - Operational	5	5	25	Strategic Controls: 1. Regular update to forward forecast 2. Early identification of future savings required 3. Transformation options considered early in the four year forward planning period 4. Budget monitoring to include action from relevant Director to address overspends including action to address any full year additional cost 5. Mitigation of cost pressures including demographic changes 6. Directors to update commissioning strategies with strategic choices to address financial envelope Operational Controls: 1. Management of Risks document covering inflation, capping, financial projections etc. attached to budget reports 2. Departmental risk analysis 3. Reporting of financial forecast updates in year to provide an update of financial impact and action required 4. Obtain monthly trend / current data to assist in any early action required 5. Obtain regular updates / market intelligence 6. Reporting full year effect of budget variations 7. Analysis of government plans and changes	4	5	20		Director of Finance
6	Finance	Failure to act upon Financial assessments or arrears in a timely manner	Cause(s): 1. Severe/catastrophic IT problems 2. Loss of key staff 3. Organisation experiencing severe financial problems Effect(s): Loss of income	Financial - Operational	3	3	9	Controls: 1. There is a disputed debt process that is followed to ensure that departments do not hold up debt recovery (i.e. actioning write offs and disputes). 2. All outstanding Financial Assessments are completed in accordance with the agreed timescales 3. Monitoring is carried out on a regular basis to ensure financial assessments are completed and contributions are set up on CareFirst in order for service users to be charged 4. Effective SLA is in place	2	3	6		Claudine Douglas-Brown
7	Finance	Failure of Finance IT systems	Cause(s): Failure of CareFirst or the various databases Oracle cheques not being produced Failure of BACs to pay LBB Effect(s): Inability to pay creditors, calculate payments due to our suppliers / foster carers (Payments Team) or to accommodate charging information for billing clients which could result in fines, penalties and loss of goodwill / reputation.	Contractual and Partnership - Operational	3	2	6	1. CareFirst has replaced the majority of the databases used in Finance for ECHS payments 2. All systems are backed up daily 3. If systems fail, new databases can be built and/or manual calculations for charges or payments could be made 4. Manual cheque payments could be raised 5. Close liaison with Liberata (and sub contracted company Xerox) to discuss any problems - escalation procedure works well. 6. Alternative printers being available at Xerox reduces the risk of cheques not being produced due to printer failure 7. Stock control measures in place to ensure cheques are ordered in time 8. BACS payments increasing - solid and dependable	2	2	4		Claudine Douglas-Brown

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8	Finance	Failure of external contractors	Cause(s): Contractor ceases to trade due financial failings. Effect(s): disruption and delays to key services, financial loss and adverse publicity	Contractual and Partnership - Operational	3	4	12	1. Constant review of contractors financial standing 2. Maintaining knowledge and contact with alternative service suppliers	2	3	6		John Nightingale
9	Finance	Contractor Poor Performance Contractor fails to meet performance expectations across Revs & Bens, Payroll, Pensions, Debtors and Accounts Payable	Cause(s): Severe catastrophic IT problems Loss of key staff Organisation experiencing severe financial problems Effect(s): - Delay / non payment of suppliers, customers, staff salaries, pensions. - Increase in fraudulent payments -Delayed or non repayment from debtors Resulting in loss of income, increased costs, increase in complaints and subsequent loss of good will and / or reputational damage.	Financial - Operational	3	3	9	1. Effective SLAs and contracts in place 2. Regular operational and strategic meetings monitoring progress and identifying action required 3. Action identified and formally agreed when monitoring key performance areas 4. Formal structures and procedures in place for monitoring and corrective action to minimise risk 5. Process reviewed on an ongoing basis 6. Weekly monitoring of complaints and patterns identified	2	3	6		Claudine Douglas-Brown / John Nightingale

Remember to consider current Internal Audit priority one recommendations when identifying, assessing and scoring risks.