REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

For Information

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To review the Cleveland Fire Authority's Corporate Risk Register.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Members note Cleveland Fire Authority's Corporate Risk Register, as attached at Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Cleveland Fire Authority has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, thereby implementing the principles and responsibilities of effective corporate governance arrangements.

3.2 In discharging these responsibilities, the Authority is responsible for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control including robust arrangements for the identification, assessment and management of risk.

3.3 The system of internal control is designed to manage risk efficiently, effectively and economically to an acceptable and reasonable level and thus contribute in the achievement of the vision of the Authority. The risk management process is designed to identify, assess and evaluate the risks and allow actions to be implemented that will reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring or if the risk does occur to minimise its impact.

3.4 The Authority has approved a risk management framework consisting of a policy, a detailed procedure, a risk management toolkit, a suite of risk registers and a detailed Community Risk Profile underpinned by a suite of community risk assessments. The risk management framework also takes cognisance of the National Risk Assessment and the Cleveland Local Resilience Community Risk Register.

3.5 The Corporate Risk Register (CRR) is the tool used to identify the strategic threats and risks to the achievement of the Authority's vision. It evaluates the risk and summarises the control measures identified to reduce these risks. The CRR therefore informs the strategic and financial planning processes of the Brigade.

3.6 The Authority's current Corporate Risk Register is maintained dynamically, however on a regular basis there is a full review of the register which further strengthens the Authority's governance arrangements.

4. <u>CORPORATE RISK REGISTER</u>

4.1 The approved Corporate Risk Register is regularly reviewed to ensure it reflects the current situation regarding existing and potential risks the Brigade could face.

4.2 In July 2024 a review of the Corporate Risk Register was undertaken by the Active Risk Team, a forum that is made up of the Brigade's Heads of Service, followed a review of the Corporate Risk Register and the wider environment by the Executive Leadership Team. As part of this process, information from the Cleveland Local Resilience Forum and the National Risk Assessment has been taken into consideration.

4.3 The outcome of the review has resulted in a number of changes to the Corporate Risk Register.

4.4 In summary the changes to the Corporate Risk Register are;

- **New and Emerging Risks**

T06 ICT Systems

Reduced functionality and capability of the Community Safety System could lead to inaccurate data being reported on the quantity and quality of safer home visits, referrals to partner agencies may not be conveyed and the Brigade's targeting methodology to reduce community risk may not be supported.

Rationale: The Brigade must have a Community Safety System with the functionality and capability required to deliver a high quality programme of Safer Homes Visits, as aligned to the goal of Safer Stronger Communities and additionally provide accurate performance information for the Brigade to report to external bodies.

Work is underway to develop an options appraisal to explore options for procurement and implementation of a new Community Safety System. The Brigade will continue quality assurance and data cleansing of the existing system in the interim to ensure quality data.

○ **Changes to Existing Risks:**

P04: Industrial Action Change to 'Loss of Key Staff'

Rationale: Industrial Action poses a risk to the Brigade in relation to loss of staff and therefore service disruption and ability of the Brigade to discharge its full duties effectively. This is also the case for general loss of staff, specifically those in specialty areas.

It is proposed the scope of this risk is reframed to account for loss of staff beyond Industrial Action.

P03: Fire and Rescue Reform: Reframe Scope of the Risk

Rationale: Currently the scope of the Risk is focused on the White Paper on Fire and Rescue Reform, however it was proposed that all elements of Fire and Rescue Reform, as identified in the Brigade's Internal Operating Plan, would also be of relevance. This includes the Local Government Association and the NFCC Report 'Fit for the Future' and gaps identified by HMICFRS.

T01: Emergency Services Mobile Communication Program (ESMCP): Reduce Risk from High Risk (9) to Medium Risk (6).

Rationale: It is identified that the project now has an extended timescale and therefore the risk of not meeting national project milestones is reduced.

○ **Items to be Deleted from the CRR:**

E03: Fire Standards

Rationale: A process has been established to assess the Brigade's compliance against each of the Fire Standards as they are issued by the Fire Standards Board. If any gaps in compliance with the standards are identified a process to estimate the resources required to achieve compliance will be made and considered through the financial planning cycle thus affording the opportunity for ELT to consider the additional investments required to achieve compliance.

It is therefore proposed that implementation of Fire Standards no longer poses a corporate risk.

O03: Capacity to Enforce the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Rationale: We have invested significantly in our Protection Services through the use of budget and grant funding - we have resourced to risk, expanded and re-structured our Fire Protection team; and qualified our front-line staff to Fire Safety Awards (Level 3 and 4) In addition, we have enhanced our arrangements relating to serving of Statutory Notices by providing our Signatory Officers with a new assurance checklist in addition to the 'Notices for Consideration'; and developed our systems for recording Statutory Notices through the implementation of an on-line register which is accessible through the Fire Safety Business pages of the Brigades website.

Also, following a fundamental review, we introduced a new RBIP that prioritises the highest risk by: using the Brigade's relative risk score; applying locally determined risk factors; stratifying risk through the application of the Brigade's Risk Matrix; and applying frequency of inspection against risk bands in line with our Policy

Opportunities

The last published register included Opportunities that it is proposed do not have relevance in this context and have therefore been removed. These are:

S02 Community Engagement
O01 Improved Performance and Public Confidence

- **Risk Mitigating Actions:**

Additional actions to mitigate the likelihood and/or impact of the identified risks have been identified and incorporated into the body of the Corporate Risk Register attached as Appendix 1.

4.5   The Assistant Chief Fire Officer Strategic Planning and Resources will ensure that the Corporate Risk Register is monitored through the approved risk management arrangements. Specifically, this involves submitting the CRR for information to the Audit and Governance Committee on a regular basis and that the Committee will report to the Authority any matters it deems to be of a significant nature.

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