

## 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. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

- 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 January 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 by 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:**

##### **T05: Fire Control Mobilisation System**

The failure to deliver the Joint Fire Control Mobilisation system or increases in project costs beyond agreed budget may impact the Brigades ability to mobilise appliances in an effective manner thus impacting on community and fire fighter safety whilst also increasing financial pressures on the Brigade. This could have a detrimental impact on the reputation of the Brigade as being an efficient and effective service.

Rationale: The mobilising system is a risk critical system as it is the system that deals with all of the 999 calls received by the Brigade. It supports our Fire Control operators to mobilise and despatch the correct appliances, in the right number with staff skillsets to deal with the emergency incident in the fastest time possible. This system directly feeds our incident data which is then used to inform and drive our assessment of risk, performance management and intelligence reporting to internal and external bodies including the Home Office and HMICFRS.

A project consisting of the Brigade and 3 other Fire and Rescue Services has commenced to replace the current mobilising system with a new updated system with a target date of implementation by 2025.

The effective delivery of this new system within timescales and within its financial envelope is essential to ensure the ongoing safety of the community through the effective mobilisations of appliances whilst also ensuring no additional financial pressures within this project occur for the Brigade to address.

- **Changes to Existing Risks:**

**E03: Fire Standards:** Reduce Risk from High Risk (9) to Medium Risk (6)

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 ascertain what is required including resources to achieve compliance has been established. This will affording ELT the opportunity to consider the additional investment or actions required to achieve compliance.

It is proposed to reduce the risk of Fire Standards from High to Medium risk.

- **Risks to be Deleted from CRR**

**T04: Power Disruption:**

Potential disruptions in power supplies may result in increasing numbers of ER incidents and impact the ability of the Brigade to discharge its duties efficiently and effectively.

Rationale: National Power Outages is an outcome from various risks on the National Risk Assessment including the failure of the National Electricity Transmission system and Cyber and Conventional terrorist attacks on the electricity infrastructure. These are monitored nationally and regionally through the Cleveland Local Resilience Forum. Recent feedback indicates that the risk around future power outages has significantly reduced. The Brigade has established robust arrangements to mitigate against this risk and thus it is proposed that the risk is removed from the CRR.

Our ongoing participation in the CLRF and associated sub-groups will be used as a watching brief to identify any increase in the potential risk of future power outages.

**S03: Reinforced Aerated Autoclaved Concrete (RAAC)**

The existence of Reinforced Aerated Autoclaved Concrete (RAAC) within buildings in the Brigade area may lead to increased risk to fire fighters and public safety through the sudden failure of RACC materials leading to full or partial structural collapse of buildings due to the instability of the affected materials.

RACC within the Brigades estate may lead to unbudgeted expenditure to address the identified issues.

Rationale: Only a small number of educational and health establishments in the Brigade area are affected by the RACC issue and the responsible owners are currently addressing the issue. The Brigade has established appropriate plans to deal with incidents that occur in such establishments to minimise the risk to our operational crews.

Survey work commissioned by the Brigade on its own buildings has established that no RACC materials are in existence within these buildings.

Our intelligence indicates that there have been no known emergency response incidents which are directly attributable to RACC and its associated failure. Thus it is proposed that this risk is removed from the CRR.

- **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.

4.5 These changes have been incorporated into the body of the Corporate Risk Register attached as **Appendix 1**.

4.6 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.

**IAN HAYTON**  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**KAREN WINTER**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER:**  
**STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RESOURCES**