

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 2023

RISK REGISTER OVERVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This paper provides the Independent Audit Committee (IAC) with a summary of activity pertaining to the “Corporate Risk Management” aspect of its terms of reference. IAC are presented with a commentary regarding recent developments in relation to the Corporate Risk Register.

2. RISK REGISTER DEVELOPMENTS

Corporate Risk Register

- 2.1 There has been one Risk & Assurance Board (RAB) session (31 October 2023) since the last report to IAC. As part of the October RAB there was a check and challenge session which covered the following entries:

- Risk 8494: Failure to ensure effective financial control and financial planning processes; and
- Risk 8500: Failure to operate in line with the principals of value for money and procurement and contract legislation.

Further detail of the outcome of the discussions of those risks is included in the commentary that follows at 2.3. The session proved helpful in developing a shared understanding around the drivers of the risks and their control environment. Leave commitments and a change to the timing of the October RAB session meant that the check and challenge session on risk 8658 and risk 8499 has been deferred to the RAB session in December. In the reporting period summary reports outlining significant changes have been considered at both Senior Leadership Team and Executive Board.

- 2.2 The diagrams at appendix A set out the Corporate Risk Register. The diagrams provide an overview of any scoring changes recorded changes since the previous report to IAC up to the 31 October 2023. A summary of the latest review remarks for entries reviewed since the previous IAC session is included in the table below.

2.3

8494: Failure to ensure effective financial control and financial planning processes

Last Review Remarks:

Check and challenge session at RAB on 31 October 23.

Chief Finance Officer provided an overview and the context of the internal and external factors that are feeding into the assessment of this risk and the controls that are in place. Following discussion an additional control has been recorded on

the Efficiency and Productivity Plan. The potential impact of the current reduced staffing levels within the Finance function were also recognised as having an impact on this risk. It was noted that the removal of the HMICFRS cause of concern provided some assurance to the wider risk context.

There were no changes to scoring or status following the RAB discussion.

8500: Failure to operate in line with the principals of value for money and procurement and contract legislation

Last Review Remarks:

Check and challenge session at RAB on 31 October 23.

It was noted that the Procurement Team have made significant progress in addressing the findings from the Internal Audit on Procurement and the basic framework and controls are now in place. In addition, plans are in place for the team to progress towards a relevant procurement qualification although it was recognised that it would take time for the new controls to bed in from a cultural perspective.

By request the ownership of the risk was transferred to ACO enableNY for ongoing oversight.

There were no changes to scoring or status following the RAB discussion.

8585: Insufficient staff available to fulfil statutory responsibilities due to Industrial Action

Last Review Remarks:

The peer review activity with Lincolnshire FRS has now been considered at the Senior Leadership Team. An action plan has been developed to implement the identified improvements and will be monitored through the Tactical Leadership Team.

8499: NYFRS fails to meet legal requirements imposed through Environmental legislation or regulation

Last Review Remarks:

Director of Community Risk & Resilience

This entry is scheduled for the next check and challenge session at Risk & Assurance Board

8658: Organisational Safeguarding Compliance

Last Review Remarks:

Director of Community Risk & Resilience

This entry is scheduled for the next check and challenge session at Risk & Assurance Board

8495: People - Ineffective workforce planning results in loss of key skills and resources at all levels of the organisation.

Head of People Services. We now have stability at senior rank and throughout the service following promotion boards at all levels. In addition, the workforce plan has been agreed and monitoring implemented (through the meeting / governance structure) to ensure appropriate planning for resource management.
Residual scoring adjusted and now matches target level.
Status adjusted to tolerate.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee are invited to consider the report and:
- Express any views on the Corporate Risk Register content to feed into Risk & Assurance Board and Executive Board
 - Indicate the level of assurance that can be drawn from the content.

Risk & Planning Manager (Business Insight, BDA)

Date: November 2023