

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE

APRIL 2024

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 Risk & Assurance Board has convened on two occasions since the last IAC session. RAB has continued with a format of check and challenge sessions on Corporate Risk Register entries during the sessions in December 2023 and February 2024. Since the last update to IAC the check and challenge sessions have covered the following entries:

- 8499 - NYFRS fail to meet legal requirements imposed through Environmental legislation or regulation.
- 8658 - Organisational Safeguarding Compliance.
- 8502 – Unable to effectively manage cyber risk.

2.2 The diagrams at appendix A set out the Corporate Risk Register. The diagrams provide an overview of any scoring changes recorded since the previous report to IAC covering the period from 1 November 2023 up to 29 February 2024. Please note that the changes to the residual and target scores of risk 8495 “People - Ineffective workforce planning results in loss of key skills and resources at all levels of the organisation” are a result of an error made by the report author, this has been corrected and there are therefore no substantive review remarks from the risk owner to accompany those changes.

2.3 The commentary that follows in the table at 2.4 provides further detail of the check and challenge discussions in addition to any review remarks recorded through routine risk reviews undertaken within the reporting period.

2.4

8502 – Unable to effectively manage cyber risk.

Last Review Remarks:

Check and challenge session at RAB on 29 February 24.

Head of ICT delivered an overview of the risk and the live controls. Discussion centred around the controls environment and the tools that are in place to counter the activity of threat actors. There was reference to learning from the cyber attack experience of other Fire Services and the importance of raising awareness amongst colleagues around for example phishing activity. Awareness raising and exercising are included within the plan for this risk.

No changes to scoring or status were suggested.

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

Last Review Remarks:

Check and challenge session at RAB on 21 December 23.

Director of Community Risk & Resilience provided an overview of the development of this risk during the period of their ownership. Following discussion it was agreed that it would be helpful to specify exactly which legislation we are considering and the timeline for compliance. This would assist in determining how quickly the Service would have to consider investment of resources and any reprioritisation of change initiatives in order to ensure compliance.

8658: Organisational Safeguarding Compliance

Last Review Remarks:

Check and challenge session at RAB on 21 December 23.

Director of Community Risk & Resilience provided an overview of the risk and the controls and actions that had been recorded and the progress made in introducing additional controls during the previous 6 months.

The Board discussed the risk and determined that the target assessment should be reconsidered. In particular, the severity of potential impacts as these would be as impactful if the risk were to occur.

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

Last Review Remarks:

Reviewed with Chief Finance Officer.

Risk and controls reviewed and adjustment to dates as necessary. No change to scoring or status at this review as there remains some uncertainty around pay awards nationally. There is also some uncertainty around the transition from the Code of Corporate Governance of the PFCC as Fire Authority to the Constitution on the Mayoral Combined Authority.

There is also some continued concern around the overall internal control framework based on the emerging annual opinion from internal audit for the 23/24 year.

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

Last Review Remarks:

Reviewed with Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

No change to scoring or status at this review. Continue to consider national initiatives that have the ability to impact local delivery.

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: March 2024