

**Blaby District Council**  
**Audit & Corporate Governance Committee**

**Date of Meeting** 6 February 2025  
**Title of Report** Risk Management Quarter 3 2024/25  
**Report Author** Council Tax Income & Debt Manager

**1. What is this report about?**

- 1.1 The report provides Audit and Corporate Governance Committee with an update in relation to the Council's Corporate Risk Register up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

**2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That the latest information in respect of the Council's major corporate risks is accepted.

**3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended**

- 3.1 The overview of the Council's risk management processes is a key responsibility of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee. It is important that members are aware of the corporate risks and their potential impact on Council business, and that they review the control measures in place to mitigate risks.

**4. Matters to consider**

**4.1 Background**

The management of risk is a critical success factor in terms of an organisation achieving its objectives. The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, supported by Internal Audit, has the role of evaluating the effectiveness of the Council's risk management procedures, and commenting upon areas of improvement as appropriate.

Risks are assessed for their impact on the Council's business, and the likelihood that those risks might arise. Scores for impact and likelihood are combined using a "5x5" matrix to arrive at a rating of high, medium, or low.

Risk Score	Matrix Category
16-25	High
9-15	Medium
1-8	Low

Further information is contained within the Risk Management Strategy which was presented to this Committee in July 2023.

#### 4.2 Corporate Risk Register

The Corporate Risk Register captures the most significant current risks that have a potential impact on the Council's strategic aims and objectives. Updates on the latest corporate risks are presented to Audit and Corporate Governance Committee every quarter.

Corporate Risks are monitored by the Corporate Risk Group which comprises the Chief Executive, the Executive Directors, the Finance Group Manager, and the Council Tax Income and Debt Manager. The Corporate Risk Group met on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to review and update the Corporate Risk Register, ensuring that it properly reflects the current corporate risks and that actions are in place to mitigate those risks. A copy of the Corporate Risk Register is included at Appendix A, and this sets out each risk, an assessment of the degree of risk to the Council, and any control measures that are in place to mitigate the likelihood and impact of the risk occurring.

The following table summarises the number of corporate risks before any control measures are put in place (i.e., uncontrolled risks).

<b>All Corporate Risks – Uncontrolled Rating Summary</b>			
<b>Red</b>	<b>Amber</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Total</b>
18	11	1	30

The corporate risks, once control measures have been put in place, i.e., controlled risks, are as follows:

<b>All Corporate Risks – Controlled Rating Summary</b>			
<b>Red</b>	<b>Amber</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Total</b>
9	8	13	30

Since the last quarterly report to Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 2 additional risks have been added to the register, which means that there are now 30 corporate risks recognised.

The following 2 new risks have been added to the Corporate Risk Register:

Risk Description		Uncontrolled Risk Rating	Controlled Risk Rating
<b>R162:</b> Contractual Obligations	Risk Likelihood	Unlikely (3)	Unlikely (3)
	Risk Impact	Medium (2)	Medium (2)
	Status	6	6
Control Measures	* SLM are exploring further improvements to both Enderby and Huncote and seeking ways to grow membership.  * Regular contract meetings between BDC and SLM are productive and ensure obligations are being met.		
<b>R165:</b> Business as Usual is negatively impacted due to the focus on Devolution	Risk Likelihood	Very Likely (4)	Very Likely (4)
	Risk Impact	Medium (3)	Medium (3)
	Status	12	12
Control Measures	* Staff are being kept informed and engaged.  * A £50,000 budget has been established for supporting the proposal stage.		

Overall, 18 high risks to the Council's business have been identified before any form of mitigation has been put in place. However, once control measures are considered, 9 of these are reduced to medium or low risk.

The latest review undertaken by the Corporate Risk Group has led to 3 risk scores being increased and 2 risk scores being decreased.

Increased risks:

**R013 - Failure to provide affordable housing and supporting infrastructure in the district in line with identified need.**

This risk rating has been increased in view of the recent flooding in the district.

**R158 – The Council is unable to meet its 5 year land supply target.**

This risk rating has been increased in view of the increase in housing needs/homelessness. The Council is working towards creation of a 5 year housing land supply through the new Local Plan. However external factors such as a new national planning policy framework and revised housing targets have hampered progress towards achieving this. The Council are working towards consultation on the draft local plan in July 2025, following

which a revised 5 year housing land supply will be achieved in late 2026. During this time the council will need to manage speculative planning applications and work with developers to avoid housing in areas which are inappropriate and not in the best interests for local people.

**R160 – Changes relating to new Government – financial and ability to deliver services.**

This risk rating has been increased due to the recent changes and how it will affect our financial position and the ability to deliver services. Existing resources may be stretched or key staff are demotivated due to uncertainty of future.

Reduced risks:

**R020 – Huncote Leisure Centre and surrounding site – risk of elevated levels of methane from landfill site.**

This risk rating has been reduced in view of the controls in place that are making it manageable.

**R126 – Impact of Industrial Action on Services and Residents.**

This risk rating has been reduced as control measures are in place.

#### 4.3 Service and Project Risk Registers

Service risks are those which are more related to operational and service delivery matters. They are maintained on a separate risk register and are subject to quarterly monitoring by Service Managers to ensure that they remain up to date and have not become obsolete. Group Managers will provide an overview of the service risks on a quarterly basis, but service risks will not be reported to Audit and Corporate Governance Committee other than in exceptional circumstances.

Project risks are managed through the Council's project management framework, with risk registers maintained for corporate projects and high-profile service projects. These are monitored through individual project teams and by the Senior Leadership Team sitting as Programme Board.

#### 4.4 Significant Issues

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

### 5. Environmental impact

#### 5.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

## **6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise because of inadequate risk management, but with robust procedures in place they are minimised or removed.

## **7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

### **7.1**

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
If risks are not monitored, then the Council may not be aware of possible events arising.	Audit and Corporate Governance Committee receive regular reports on risk and advise Cabinet Executive as appropriate.
If risks are not effectively managed through mitigation, risks identified cannot be minimised and may have a significant impact on the Council.	Mitigating control measures are in place and monitored through Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, Corporate Risk Group and by Senior Leadership Team/Group Managers.

## **8. Other options considered**

- 8.1 None. It is a requirement of the Risk Management Strategy that regular reports are brought to Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.

## **9. Appendix**

- 9.1 Appendix A – Corporate Risk Register (excluding IT risks)
- 9.2 Appendix B – IT Corporate Risks (exempt appendix)

## **10. Background paper(s)**

Risk Management Strategy 2023 – 2026.

## **11. Report author's contact details**

Sarabjit Khangura Council Tax Income and Debt Manager  
Sarabjit.Khangura@blaby.gov.uk 0116 272 7646