# Corporate Risk Register April 2024

# Tendring District Council

### INTRODUCTION

The management of Risk is a key element to any organisation to protect its resources (human & physical), finances and reputation. By undertaking regular, stringent, and structured analysis of the risks faced by the organisation senior managers are able to take strategic decisions to mitigate against such risks whilst still being able to take the necessary decisions for a progressive council.

This document explains the methodology used to analyse and identify the risks which are considered to be of a sufficient level to be monitored corporately. The process of identifying risks is a linear examination at service, departmental and subsequently corporate level. It is only by undertaking a thorough and detailed risk assessment that this can be achieved.

Each risk is assessed for the likelihood of the risk occurring, as well as the potential impact of such an occurrence. The combination of these two factors gives an initial risk rating. Each risk is then 'managed' by the implementation of control measures. It is the re-assessed to give a residual risk rating.

Only risks which would have a significant corporate-level impact upon the ability of the Council to undertake its normal service delivery, finances, safety, or reputation are reported at this level.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Risk:** A risk is an event or action which may adversely affect the Council. It can arise from the possibility of not realising opportunities as well as from a threat materialising. Risk management is embedded across the organisation and forms part of each directorate's everyday function. They follow the format '[x...] leading to [y...] resulting in [z].' Please note that as we increase our partnership and multi-agency work, risks become increasingly complex as controls may become out of our direct control.

**Inherent risk:** This is the level of risk that is present before controls have been applied. Measured by evaluating the impact and probability of the risk to calculate an Inherent Risk Rating.

**Residual risk:** This is the level of risk remaining after application of controls. The Residual Risk Rating is calculated on the same basis as for inherent risk but factoring in any changes in impact and probability arising from the controls in place to mitigate the inherent risk.

**Control:** Controls are a key mechanism for managing risk and are put in place to provide reasonable assurance. Examples of controls can include policies and procedures adopted, progression of ongoing actions, or implementation of recommendations resulting from internal audits.

**Warning indicators:** These are the mechanisms or issues that will highlight that the risk is not being mitigated by the controls identified, or to the extent expected. These can be internal or external to the organisation.

### **RISK RATING CATEGORIES**



- Risks at this level will be considered to be above the Council's risk tolerance level. These risks require immediate attention and, as a high priority, a plan needs to be put together to provide sufficient mitigation resulting in a lower rating for the residual risk, wherever possible.
- Management Team should regularly review any risks in the Corporate Risk Register where the mitigated level remains above the risk tolerance level.

 Where a risk in a Departmental Risk Register scores at this level, consideration will be given to any corporate impact, and whether there is a need for the risk to be considered in the Corporate Risk Register.

## 12 Medium Risks (Rating of 6-12)

• Controls should be put in place to mitigate the risk, wherever possible, especially where the risk is close to the risk tolerance level or is increasing over time. However, where the options for mitigation would not provide value for money, the risk may be tolerated.

# 4 Low Risks (Rating of 1-5)

No action required to mitigate these risks.

### **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER – April 2024**

Risk	Risk Headings	
colour		
	Failure to deliver key services	Pages 7-10
	Failure to deliver key projects	Pages 11-16
	Reputational Damage	Pages 17-20
	Ineffective workforce management and planning	Pages 21-22
	Failure to deliver a balanced and sustainable budget	Page 23
	Ineffective management of information	Pages 24-25
	Failure to adopt a sound Local Plan	Page 26
	Failure of income streams to meet Councils Financial requirements and obligations to other bodies	Page 27 -28
	Failure in emergency and business continuity planning	Pages 29 - 30

RISK 1a - Failure to effectively manage assets - failure to achieve value or benefit from property transactions.

Assessment date	Inherent	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date
	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	9	3	3		4	
March 2022	9	Sizable	Sizable	Unchanged		September 2024
September 22	9				LOW	
July 23	9					
April 24	9					
		. DI . O		1 1 1 1 1	1.1 66 .1	

Current Action Status/ Control Strategy Asset Management Plan, Strategy and associated delivery plan and ensuring together with an effective and flexible property dealing policy adopted by full council in May 2017. New office practice documents completed concurrently.

Review of the Asset Management Plan procedures and policies is due. Any and review of the action plan needs to be considered in relation to the priorities of the administration.

Responsible Officer - Andy White

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Councillor Peter Kotz. Assets Portfolio Holder

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services

Assessment date	Inherent		Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date	
	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	10	2	5			
March 2022	10	Moderate	Critical	Unchanged	5	
September 2022	10					September 2024
July 2023	10				LOW	
April 2024	10					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

**Physical Infrastructure Controls** - we have invested significantly over the past 7 years through our council digital transformation programmes and associated office transformation works to re-design and replace key physical network components to create an affordable level of resilience and redundancy within our office locations. <u>However</u>, infrastructure hardware is now 6-8 years old and reaching end-of-life in turn increasing the likelihood of localised failure(s).

Cloud Infrastructure Controls – provides significant resilience and speedier 'disaster recovery' capability is provided by our 'Public Cloud' Microsoft Azure platform providing resilient service through two 'mirrored' data centres delivering 95% of our applications. Key business continuity is provided our remote working capabilities. Ongoing work to replace 'legacy' systems. Our goal is to become a 'Cloud Only' technology user for business continuity/ resilience reasons.

**Monitoring & Response Controls -** real-time enhanced 24/7 Network visibility, monitoring, reporting and alarms together with a 24/7 Security Operations Centre (SOC) provided by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party give us 'real time' network performance visibility and is allowing us to react swiftly and pro-actively to issues.

Residual Risk - Catastrophic IT network failure risk is now likely to result from:

- 1) National UK or regional network data infrastructure failure(s) UK or regional power issue(s).
- 2) A successful cyber-attack targeting our physical or Cloud network infrastructure.
- 3) Localised issues caused by aging network hardware failure

Responsible Officer - John Higgins

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Corporate Finance and Governance PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services

RISK 1b - Catastrophic IT network failure

### **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER – April 2024**

RISK 1c - Ineffective communication / management of information - Failure to adopt implement and foster effective communication and information systems with an adverse impact on the ability to deliver services or relationship with key stakeholders.

Assessment	ate risk	Present inherent ris	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Residual Risk	Review date
date		Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	15	3	5		10	
March 2022	15	Sizable	Critical			
September 2022	15				Medium	September 2024
July 2023	15					
April 2024	15					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Tendring District Council has robust Information Governance policies and practices based upon shared Essex-wide 'best practice' Information Governance policies. We undertake quarterly information governance monitoring through our Information Governance Policy Unit (strategic) and the Information Security Management Group (operational). Our processes are annually audited to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

The Data Controller, the council has a legislative duty to evidence and ensure that official council information is managed in full compliance with legislation, namely that data is stored: lawfully, fairly and transparently, adequate and relevant and limited to what is necessary, accurate and where necessary kept up to date, kept for no longer than is necessary in a form which permits identification of data subjects, ensuring 'integrity and confidentiality' protecting against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss/ destruction/ damage through using appropriate security.

- Following Full Council decisions 2<sup>nd</sup> March and then following the local elections and roll-out of new laptops to new Councillors all Council access to services is via managed-devices only (security posture-control) which has significantly strengthened information governance. Similarly, nearly all Councillors (see note) have managed-mobile phones.
- The Council still periodically experiences information breaches requiring investigation/ resolution. These are due to human error which is remediated through training and process review/ tightening.

Responsible Officer - John Higgins - Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) Judy Barker – Data Protection Officer (DPO)

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Corporate Finance and Governance PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services Committee

<sup>\*</sup> Updated information governance/ cyber security mandatory training for Councillors will be rolled-out this quarter.

RISK 1d - Ineffective Cyber Security Physical and Application (software) Based Protection Management - Failure to adopt, implement and deliver effective Cyber Security protective arrangements leading to a catastrophic or significant IT cyber security breach or loss of personal, sensitive, or vulnerable persons' data or inability to provide IT services and applications supporting Council services (or significant operational difficulties arising from).

Assessment	Inherent risk	Present inherent risk so	ore breakdown	Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date
date	score	Probability	Impact		rating	
Sept 2021	20	4	5			
March 2022	20	Major	Critical	Unchanged	15	September 2024
September 23	20					
July 2023	20				HIGH	
April 2024	20					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Tendring District Council has robust cyber-security including physical devices (Firewalls), network segregation, protective software applications to protect the Council from the daily occurrences of external Cyber-attack. Cyber-security is an essential part of our induction training. In addition, phishing awareness campaigns are also ongoing.

With council cyber-attacks growing exponentially in both volume and complexity the council must consider that it is not <u>IF</u> but <u>WHEN</u> a successful cyber-attack is made and we continue to plan, train and exercise accordingly.

Having implemented an 'immutable backup' regime we have data restoration capabilities from locked-down safe sources. That said, in a restoration scenario we will lose any recent made data changes so an element of recovery will still be necessary.

Following Full Council decision of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 and Councillors adopting identical working practices to Officers of managed-devices by all Councillors we have implemented adoption of managed-devices by all and cyber-security posture control council-wide -has achieved This is a significant step-change in minimising the number of attack vectors' (pathways) that a hacker can use to attack and attempt to exploit vulnerabilities to gain access to networks/ computers/ digital devices/ information/ data. We will continue to move towards a Zero trust Network Architecture (ZTNA) as a direction of travel over the next twelve months. ZTNA means that in addition to monitoring infrastructure hardware for security vulnerabilities, every user device connecting to services is routinely checked for access rights and vulnerabilities (in the background).

NOTE: With a general election taking place during 2024 the National Cyber security Centre has highlighted the likelihood of increased hostile cyber-attacks both on public sector services and directly on political and senior individuals calling for additional cyber vigilance and attentiveness across both local authority and personal IT use

Responsible Officer - John Higgins

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Corporate Finance and Governance PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services Committee

RISK 2a - Coastal Defence - The Council has a coastline of 60km and maintains the sea defence structures along 18.5km of this frontage. These defences protect the towns of Harwich, Dovercourt, and Walton on the Naze, Frinton on Sea, Holland on Sea, Clacton and Brightlingsea. The cliffs are prone to stability issues because of steep slopes in many areas, historical structures, and past shortage of funds for maintenance. Unforeseen expenditure may be required on sea defences, which if left to deteriorate could cause catastrophic cliff failure and impact safety of residents/visitors nearby. The East Coast of the UK is vulnerable to a phenomenon called a North Sea Tidal Surge.

Assessment date	Inherent			Direction of	Residual Risk	Review date
	risk score	Probability	Impact	risk	rating	
September 2021	15	<b>3</b> Sizable	5 Critical	Unchanged	15	September 2024
March 2022	15	Sizable	Childai	Officialiged	13	Ocptember 2024
September 2023	15					
July 2023	15				High	
April 2024	15					
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### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Conducting annual inspections of coast protection structures and responding swiftly to public reporting of minor faults. An annual maintenance programme for the coastal frontage is set each year with an appropriate budget to cover the works. Each year sections of the sea defences are improved as part of a rolling programme of special maintenance schemes funded from the Council's Revenue Budgets. Works undertaken range from day-to-day maintenance of promenades and seawalls to schemes costing millions of pounds. Larger capital schemes attracting grant in aid are produced to comply with Defra guidelines and their High-Level Targets for coast protection.

At present there are identified areas of current cliff instability where funding to conduct necessary major projects would need to be identified.

Responsible Officer: Andy White

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Councillor M Bush. Portfolio Holder for Environment.

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Community Leadership

Assessment	Inherent	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk		Review date
date	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	12	3	4			
March 2022	12	Sizable	Major	Unchanged	8	September 2024
September 2022	12					
July 2023	12				MEDIUM	
April 2024	12					
	where to fo in partnersl to the Cour The Counc	Asset Mapping has taken cus resources to strengthe hip relationships (e.g. NEE noil is minimised.  It is now working within the Board and the Alliance Bo	en and build more res B, Joint Use Agreem e new health structure	silient communities. The ents) is addressed thro	e reputational, finan ough robust agreem es that attend the li	cial risk of engaging ents, to ensure risk
		Simpson / John Fox/ Reb				

RISK 2c - Building Council Homes - Continuing uncertainty over Business plan capacity due to lack of clarity from the government.

Assessment date	Inherent risk	Present inherent risk sc	ore breakdown	Direction of Risk	Residual Risk rating	Review date
date	score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	8	2	4			
March 2022	8	Moderate	Major	Unchanged	4	September 2024
September 2022	8					
July 2023	8				LOW	
April 2024	8					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Government has removed the HRA borrowing cap, but prudential borrowing rules still apply. Modelling has been undertaken within the business plan and we are comfortable that 200 new homes could be built over the next 8-10 years dependent upon build costs and land availability.

The Government has signalled a potential continuation and extension of the PRP RTB pilot but has given no firm commitment as to how it will be funded. This is a concern as it could signal a revival of the forced sale of high value assets policy, which had been suspended. This would have a significant and detrimental impact on our business plan and capacity to build.

Notwithstanding the overall funding position the new regulatory regime, prevalence of claims, revised Decent Homes Standards Customer Service Standards and energy efficiency needs means that we need to refocus resources onto the upgrading of existing stock. Opportunities for smaller scale construction and acquisition will be considered on merit within the business plan but the principal focus will turn to the existing stock.

Responsible Officer - D Williams

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Housing PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services

RISK 2d - Ineffective delivery of Transforming Tendring project - Failure to provide effective change management and the coordination of corporate resources with an adverse impact on organisational focus and delivery.

Assessment date	Inherent	Present inherent risk s	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Residual Risk rating	Review date
	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	15	1	2			
March 2022	15	Minor	Moderate	Unchanged	2	
September 2022	15					September 2024
July 2023	2				LOW	
April 2024	2					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Completion of physical works relating to this project are now completed, therefore the inherent risk and residual risk have been reduced to reflect this.

Resources used for this project are now concentrating on council property repairs and maintenance activities.

Discuss removal of this item

Responsible Officer - Andy White

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Cllr Peter Kotz - Corporate Finance and Governance PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) – Resources and Services

**RISK 2e - Essex Family / Family Solutions -** A TDC appointed Family Support Worker working within Tendring Family Solutions Team. Risks of the project include potential breaches of data protection, Council reputation and professional liability (working with vulnerable families)

Assessment	Inherent	Present inherent risk s	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Residual Risk	Review date
date	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	8	2	4			
March 2022	8	Moderate	Major	Unchanged	8	September 2024
September 2022	8				MEDIUM	
July 2023	8				MILDIOW	
April 2024	8					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Matrix management arrangements in place between TDC and ECC with clear workload management. The TDC FSW will be subject to the same control environment as other team members within Family Solutions. TDC has increased management capacity to oversee the FSW position.

The Clacton based post is now on the Council establishment which reduces the risk to families. An Additional Family Solutions post based in Harwich and working peripatetically more widely across the district is being funded for 21 months using partnership funding to help address health inequalities.

Responsible Officer - Anastasia Simpson

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Partnership PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Community Leadership

RISK 2f - Garden Communities - The project fails to come to fruition due to land control, planning or political issues.									
Assessment Inherent		Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk		Review date			
date	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating				
September 2021	12	4	3						
March 2022	12	Major	Sizeable	Unchanged	1				
September 2022	12	-				September 2024			
July 2023	12				LOW				
April 2024	12								

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Garden Community formally allocated for development in the jointly adopted Local Plan for North Essex following independent examination by a government-appointed Planning Inspector. Planning permission granted by Essex County Council for A120/A133 link road – a key piece of infrastructure that will unlock land for development. Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) in place to deliver the link road and a Rapid Transit System (RTS); however, a review of costs mean that developer funding will be required to complete the link road.

The lead developer has control over most of the land and is keen to collaborate positively with the Council to deliver the development following a 'planning-led' process rather than through a Development Corporation approach. Memorandum of Understanding in place with the lead developers Latimer to fund completion of the link road.

Joint Committee has been formed between Tendring, Colchester and Essex to ensure a coordinated approach to decision making with an initial focus on agreeing a planning framework and looking forward to the determination of planning applications.

Membership of the Joint Committee is not proposed to change following the May 2023 local elections, but the direction of travel has not changed.

A development plan document is being created through partnership between Tendring, Colchester and Essex to set out more detailed framework for the layout and delivery of the proposed garden community. This has already been the subject of an initial round of public consultation, and, at the time of writing, the 'submission version' of the plan was out to two rounds of public consultation and has been with the intention to submitted to the Secretary of State following consultation to begin the process of independent examination. Planning Inspector has been appointed to conduct the examination, which is anticipated to take place in May 2024, subject to formal confirmation.

A dedicated planning team is being formed between Tendring, Colchester and Essex to resource the planning process going forward. A dedicated planning team is being formed between Tendring, Colchester and Essex to resource the planning process going forward with the Planning Manager already in place and a contribution towards additional resources being discussed have been agreed with the lead developers through a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).

Responsible Officer: Gary Guiver

Responsible Cabinet member(s) – Planning and Housing Portfolio Holder Environment Portfolio Holder

**RISK 3a - Member Conduct -** The Localism Act 2011 places a statutory duty upon Councils to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst its own Elected Members and any co-opted Members. Upheld Code of Conduct complaints risk damaging the Council's reputation adverse implications on its ethical governance arrangements, together with an increase in Council resources to assess and investigate complaints.

Assessment date	Inherent	rent Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk	Residual Risk rating	Review date
date	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	12	3	4			
March 2022	12	Sizable	Major	Unchanged	4	
September 2022	12		•			September 2024
July 2023	12				LOW	
April 2024	12					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Regular reports to Standards Committee and discussions with Group Leaders and providing regular refresher training for Members on the Code of Conduct requirements.

Regular reports to Standards Committee and discussions with Group Leaders and providing advice on request either to Councillors on an individual basis, or to groups on the Code of Conduct requirements. Damage to the District Council's reputation can be minimised both by the seeking of advice at an early stage, and then following that advice. Due to the new Code of Conduct being implemented with effect from May 2023 all District Councillors provided were provided with training on the Code of Conduct as part of their induction programme.

There has been an increase in complaints requiring investigation at district level and dealing with declarations of interests, one matter is due to go to a hearing in late Spring, which could have an impact on the Council's reputation, due to the source of the complaint from a national body.

Town Council matters which have at their heart a need for relationship building and despite differences agreeing to work together for the good of the Town area remain a concern. Training was organised by the District Council for Town and Parish Councillors too following the elections, but further sessions are required, to prevent complaints being received and consequently reducing the level of District Council resources being diverted to responding to the same, which are time consuming and costly.

Responsible Officer: Management Team (Lisa Hastings, Monitoring Officer)

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Code of Conduct matters are reported to the Standards Committee, as a non-executive function.

**RISK 3b - Failure to comply with legislative requirements -** Risk of judicial reviews court claims for damages or injunctions being sought against the Council, causing delay in service delivery and financial loss to defend actions.

Assessment	Inherent	Present inherent risk s	core breakdown	Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date
date risk score	Probability	Impact		rating		
Sept 2021	16	4	4			
March 2022	16	Major	Major	Unchanged	2	
Sept022	16	•		4		September 2024
July 2023	16				LOW	
April 2024	16					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Ensuring that communication between the Directors and Service Managers with the Legal Team is kept up to date with regards to resourcing priorities and project planning. *In addition, Directors and /or Service Managers are encouraged to raise with the Legal Team any matters or areas of work that may be causing any concern or might become an issue.*Assistant Director Governance and Head of Legal Services to be kept informed of new developments through regular discussions to be held between Services, Management Team, and Cabinet agendas.

Services are also encouraged to keep under review their practices and procedures in accordance with the legislation, specifically that relevant to their areas, including their policies and record keeping, to prevent an increase in Section 5 Reports.

The reason for the change in the direction of risk is due to the probability increasing from low to high as a result of cases including for example housing disrepair, planning challenges and costs appeals.

In addition, it is noted that the Council does not currently fully comply with the accessibility requirements on our website or the intranet. Works are currently underway to update the website, but it is not known whether these changes will meet legislative requirements.

Briefing Notes to Management Team to be prepared by Legal Services, where cases are on the increase or themes emerge.

Responsible Officer - Lisa Hastings

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Leader and Finance and Governance Portfolio Holder

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services

RISK 3c - Health and Safety - Failure to have effective Health and Safety processes in place exposing public. members and staff to	
increased risk of injury or illness.	

Assessment Inherent risk score		Present inherent risk s	core breakdown	Direction of Risk	Residual Risk rating	Review date
		Probability	Impact			
September 2021	20	4	5			
March 2022	20	Major	Critical	Unchanged	10	
September 2022	20					September 2024
July 2023	20				MEDIUM	
April 2024	20					
		un officer with everall record		1	10 ( )	<u> </u>

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Identifying an officer with overall responsibility for ensuring that effective Health and Safety processes in place.

Administrative officer now passed NEBOSH certificate in Health and Safety which provides additional support to the team covering sickness and annual leave period.

Providing regular Health and Safety updates to Management Team

Responsible Officer: Richard Barrett/Clare Lewis

Responsible Cabinet member(s) Corporate Finance and Governance PFH / HR and Council Tax Committee

Scrutiny Committee(s) n/a

Assessment date	Inherent	Present inherent risk	score breakdown	Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date
	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	15	5	3			
March 2022	15	Critical	Sizeable	Unchanged	10	
September 2022	15					September 2024
July 2023	15				MEDIUM	· ·
April 2024	15					
Status/ Control Strategy	Internal Aurisks.	udit Team providing advice		assed their probation a o improve control envir		. ,
	risks.  Rules and  Anti-Frauc  Ongoing fi	·	recommendations to the Constitution.	o improve control envir	onment and mitigat	e exposure to frauc
Strategy	risks.  Rules and  Anti-Frauc  Ongoing for council's in	udit Team providing advice and procedures as laid down in and Corruption Strategy regarded awareness training bei	recommendations to the Constitution.	o improve control envir	onment and mitigat	e exposure to frauc

### **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER - April 2024**

**RISK 4a - Loss of Key Staff -** Loss of key staff either through service changes or natural turnover impacting on delivery and /or reputational risk e.g, managing elections.

Assessment	Inherent risk score	Present inherent risk so	core breakdown	Direction of Risk	Residual Risk rating	Review date
date		Probability	Impact			
September 2021	12	4	4			
March 2022	12	Major	Major	Unchanged	12	September 2024
September 2022	16					
July 2023	16				MEDIUM	
April 2024	16					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Effective HR processes in place to identify early signs of workforce issues. Skills focus and flexible approach across the Council. "Grow our Own" strategy and Apprentice Sponsorship (s) are in place. Ongoing development and investment into 'Career Track' help to upskill existing staff and attract talent.

Utilisation of ECC recruitment arm to advertise specialist roles, ensuring a much wider reach of candidates. Encouragement of secondment opportunities both internally and externally (with other authorities) to support service delivery in specialist areas. Council involvement in cross-Essex professional development programmes (such as Essex Leaders) to strengthen the authority's leadership.

The Assistant Director change management programme seeks to ensure the Council provides a robust career progression programme for its staff from entry level to senior management. Where there is an urgent need, agency staff can be engaged, however, this will come at additional cost and may be less effective in some specialist areas.

Responsible Officer - Management Team (Anastasia Simpson/Katie Wilkins)

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - HR and Council Tax Committee

Scrutiny Committee(s) N/A

RISK 4b - Lack of ca	apacity to d	eliver core services - not retain	ing / having access t	staff capacity to deliver	services and priorities	
Assessment	Inherent	Present inherent risk sco	ore breakdown	Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date
date	risk	Book at 116	1		rating	
	score	Probability	Impact			
September 2021	12	4	4			
March 2022	12	Major	Major	Unchanged	12	
September 2022	16	,	•			September 2024
July 2023	16				MEDIUM	' ' ' '
April 2024	16			, , ,		

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Identification of areas of key person dependency, skills and competency matching and corporate approach to the delivery of key services and projects through secondments / cross service working. Effective succession planning information sharing through Management Team.

Bi-yearly workforce reporting to MT/Human Resources & Council Tax Committee, includes current vacancy information, Age Profile, Gender Pay Gap, and Sickness Absence data.

The Council worked with the East of England Local Government Association last year to carry out an independent review of its pay structure. This led to some options to support best use of the NJC pay spine in alignment with the employment market. These included, salary and benefits benchmarking, improved marketing of vacancies and employment offer and expanding our well-established "grow our own" ethos. These options are currently being considered as part of the Assistant Director change programme.

Alternative approaches for selection process are being introduced to respond to rapid changes in job market and streamline the process. Increased flexible working arrangements, including increased options for remote working have widened candidate pool and geographic area from which candidates are now drawn.

### Considerations (applicable to 4a & 4b):

Staff costs are a significant proportion of the Council's general budget and therefore, any financial pressures may result in decreased ability to maintain capacity. In that situation, priority for staffing resources will be given in accordance with the corporate plan and associated priorities.

Staff costs are subject to National Pay Award. Current financial pressures e.g., inflation/minimum wage are seeing increasing pressure on the National Employers to raise the annual Pay Award, resulting in increased costs to the Council. While being part of National Employers brings many benefits, it does reduce the Council's ability to influence the Pay Award. Furthermore, national bargaining also carries the risk of localised industrial action. Finally, National Terms of Employment, also mean that the Council has limited flexibility to improve remuneration to attract and retain candidates in a competitive employment

Responsible Officer - Management Team (Anastasia Simpson/Katie Wilkins)

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Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Human Resources Committee and Council Tax Committee

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Failure to deliver

### **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER - April 2024**

RISK 5A -	Financial Strategy - The impact of achieving a balanced budget in an ever-tightening financial environment on service delivery
objectives.	

Assessment date	Inherent Present inherent risk sc		ore breakdown	Direction of Risk	Residual Risk rating	Review date
uale	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	20	4	5			
March 2022	20	Major	Critical	Unchanged	15	
September 2022	20					September 2024
July 2023	20				HIGH	
April 2024	20					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Long Term Financial Plan updated on an ongoing basis.

- Financial Strategy / Forecast Preparation including identifying and capturing significant risks such as changes to government funding, and the identification of savings which will require some challenging decisions.
- Robust and timely Budget Monitoring Processes.
- Engagement with key stakeholders, members, and senior management as early as possible. Key financial items discussed at dedicated / regular meetings of Management Team
- Responding to and implementing recommendations and advice issued by the Council's External Auditor.

A framework in which to deliver required savings is currently being developed with the aim of capturing key financial information to support the associated decision-making process alongside the corporate plan / priorities process. This will also sit alongside a review of cost pressures across three key strands as set out in the report to full Council of the 13 Feb 2024 investment plan approach and the use of key zero based budgeting principles in developing the forecast looking ahead to 2024/25 and beyond.

A review of the length of the financial planning cycle is subject to review during 2024/25. However, in the event that the long-term approach is unable to support the delivery of the intended outcomes, then the Council can revert to the more traditional / short term approach to setting the budget.

Responsible Officer: Richard Barrett

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Finance and Governance PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) – Resources and Services

Assessment date	Inherent	and/or personal data through malicious acti Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date
date	risk score	e Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	20	5	4			
March 2022	20	Critical	Major	Unchanged	16	
September 2022	20					September 2024
July 2023	20				HIGH	
April 2024	20					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Multi-firewall network segregation implemented with role-based access to systems necessary for work. Governance procedures/ policies/ responsibilities quarterly reviewed by the Information Governance Policy Unit. All remote working is protectively 'tunnelled' utilising Microsoft VPN technology.

All officer mobile devices (laptops, tablet, and phones) are encrypted with complex passwords and are managed using Microsoft Mobile device Management (MDM) to further protect data. Enhanced monitoring of the Council's internal network data flows focusses on early detection/ isolation of cyber-attack. The Council maintains an engoing campaign to educate staff and members as to a range of cyber-attacks/ techniques.

To-date all information breaches have been down to human-error. We have robust security breach reporting arrangements, and each such breach is investigated and lessons-learned in terms of reducing the operating risk or providing additional staff training etc.

Procedures are in place to manage agreements where appropriate, where partner organisations are managing data on behalf of the Council. Consultation with the Council's Data Protection Officer should be undertaken prior to agreements being formed. This will ensure risk to the organisation is managed effectively.

Councillors adopting identical working practices to Officers - adoption of managed-devices by all and cyber-security posture control council-wide – has achieved <u>step-change</u> in minimising the number of attack vectors' (pathways) that a hacker can use to attack and attempt to exploit vulnerabilities to gain access to networks/ computers/ digital devices/ information/ data. These actions would have significantly reduced the likelihood of data loss however the election year increases our risk (see note below).

NOTE: With a general election taking place during 2024 the National Cyber Security Centre has highlighted the likelihood of increased hostile cyber-attacks both on public sector services and directly on political and senior individuals calling for additional cyber vigilance and attentiveness across both local authority and personal IT use. Additional awareness training to be provided during 24/25. Additional education staff and members in relation to these matters.

Responsible Officer - John Higgins - Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)/Judy Barker - Council's named Data Protection Officer

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Finance and Governance PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services Committee

### **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER – April 2024**

Assessment date	Inherent	Present inherent risk	score breakdown	Direction of Risk		Review date
date	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	20	3	4			
March 2022	12	Sizable	Major	Unchanged	5	
September 2022	12					September 202
July 2023	12				LOW	
April 2024	12					
	disconnection Health Chec The Public S	2023 Cabinet Office have contact on from central government (which the by 3 <sup>rd</sup> specialist third party as periodes Network (PSN) is a vital	n facilitates Housing Bene art of our re-certification s connection to central gove	ofits) remains current. We are cubmission.  Department and the Department	o in the process of orga of Works and Pension	unising a 2023 PSN IT as (DWP) to administer
	disconnection Health Chec The Public S housing benesecurity issu (NCSC) for F Our PSN cer unexpectedly Both the Public S upon DWP ti applied to cri and Communication	n from central government (which k by 3 <sup>rd</sup> specialist third party as p	an facilitates Housing Benerat of our re-certification seconnection to central governual cycle of IT security I submission of compliance d 23 November 2019. The been regained our PSN and the PSN IT Security ever be aware that the Cycle been rolled-out across comandatory annual local government.	ditts) remains current. We are submission.  The arment and the Department Health Check using a register to decumentation to central graph of the PSN re-certification regime and Certification status 2 April 2 Health Check regime is near the Assessment Framework that government department overnment CAF regime. The	in the process of orgation of Works and Pension ored consultant, remedigovernment national Cy was suspended during 024 for the next twelve ing the end of its lifecyer (CAF) regime – previous and the Department Council's cyber-securit	unising a 2023 PSN IT  IS (DWP) to administer into a control of any ober Security Centre  IS COVID and months.  ICLIE BUT is entirely reliance to the country only a requirement of the country position is robust, and the country position is robust, and the country of the country position is robust, and the country of the

RISK 7a - Local Plan - Failure to achieve a positive result from the Examination in Public into the Local Plan

	Inherent Present inherent risk score breakdo		core breakdown	Direction of Risk		Review date
date	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	12	3	4			
March 2022	12	Sizable	Major	Unchanged	5	September 2024
September 2022	12					
July 2023	12				LOW	
April 2024	12					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Local plan adopted in January 2022 current residual risk is therefore reduced to a minimal. The risk to the council of not meeting this will increase when the Local plan is reviewed in 2025.

Local Plan review commenced with agreement of the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee in December 2023. The review will be focussed on updating the existing Local Plan rather than re-writing it from scratch in line with a series of guiding principles that have been agreed by the Committee.

The Council is targeting the submission of an updated Local Plan to the Secretary of State before June 2025, before major changes to the government procedure for Local Plans take effect. This will follow three rounds of public consultation – Issues and Options (Spring 2024), Preferred Options (Autumn 2024) and Submission Draft (Spring 2025).

The greatest risk to the Local Plan process, as it stands, would be failure to submit to the Secretary of State before June 2025. The factors most likely to impact upon the timetable will be the public response to consultation and delays in the completion of any new evidence required to support the review of the Local Plan.

Responsible Officer: Gary Guiver

Responsible Cabinet member(s) – Leader—Planning and Housing Portfolio Holder

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Planning Resource and Services O/S

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Assessment date	Inherent	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date
	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	20	4	5			
March 2022	20	Major	Critical	Unchanged	10	
September 2022	20					September 2024
July 2023	20				MEDIUM	
April 2024	20					
Current Action Status/ Control Strategy	Regular bu as necessa	dget monitoring including re ary.	ports to Cabinet, w	nich will also set out op	tions to respond to	any adverse issues

Responsible Officer: Richard Barrett

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Corporate Finance and Governance PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services

RISK – 8b - Failure to collect levels of income required from Non-Domestic Rates in order to meet the shares between the Government, Essex County Council, Essex Fire Authority and Tendring District Council.

Assessment	Inherent	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk	Residual Risk	Review date			
date	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating				
September 2021	20	4	5						
March 2022	20	Major	Critical	Unchanged	10				
September 2022	20	•				September 2024			
July 2023	20				MEDIUM				
April 2024	20								
	Regular bu	Regular budget monitoring including reports to Cabinet, which will also set out ontions to respond to any adverse issues							

Current Action Status/ Control Strategy Regular budget monitoring including reports to Cabinet, which will also set out options to respond to any adverse issues, as necessary.

Responsible Officer: Richard Barrett

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Corporate Finance and Governance PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Resources and Services

### **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER – April 2024**

PISK 03 - Inoffective Emergency Planning - The Council fails to effectively respond to an emergency and the community is adversely

Assessment date	Inherent	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk		Review date
	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	12	3	4			
March 2022	12	Sizable	Major	Unchanged	4	September 2024
September 2022	12					•
July 2023	12				LOW	
April 2024	12					

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

To continue to develop and regularly test of various aspects of the Council's Emergency Plan including working with multi-agency partner organisations and parish and town councils. This includes significant planning for and delivery of exercises, *complimented by a range of training to* help maintain the Council's preparedness.

The Council continues to experience a number of events. Systems, structures, and processes are in place to respond to any Emergency Planning event; however, this does require considerable capacity across the Council. Post COVID, with increased staff working from home, this has made internal staff liaison and recruiting of volunteers for rest centres and District Emergency Response Centre (DERC) difficult, particularly with new employees. This is being resolved by additional training being carried out and doing a campaign with the Councils communications team.

In a major event Vulnerable Intelligent Persons Emergency Response can be used to identify vulnerable people who may need support. However, this does not have ECC social care data or NHS health data and so will have limitations on the accuracy of information provided.

Responsible Officer – John Fox/Catherine Boyer-Besant

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Partnerships PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Community Leadership

RISK 9b - Ineffective Business Continuity Planning - The Council fails to effectively respond to an emergency / adverse event with an adverse impact on the delivery of services.

Assessment	Inherent	Present inherent risk score breakdown		Direction of Risk		Review date
date	risk score	Probability	Impact		rating	
September 2021	10	2	4			
March 2022	8	Moderate	Major	Unchanged	8	September 2024
September 2022	8					
July 2023	8				Medium	
April 2024	8			4		

### Current Action Status/ Control Strategy

Responsibility for Business Continuity now resides within the Digital Services and Assurance team with the Assurance and Resilience manager continuing to provide support to services to ensure that their plans remain current. A current review of all Business Continuity Plans is underway.

Our new public cloud-based infrastructure provides significantly improved resilience in information storage, applications, and reduced reliance upon office premises through flexible / remote working.

Use of IT to record and support the development of service risk assessments and business continuity impact assessments – was expected to be implemented during 2022 but has been delayed. Specialist certificated training has been conducted for key staff and will be finalised in 24/25. The Council has plans in place to adopt a new corporate Business Continuity Plan (BCP) which will cascade down the service Business Impact Assessments (BIAs).

Responsible Officer - John Higgins/Clare Lewis

Responsible Cabinet member(s) - Partnerships PFH

Scrutiny Committee(s) - Community Leadership

### **APPENDIX – METHODOLOGY FOR CALCULATING RISK**

### **RISK RATING ELEMENTS - IMPACT**

Risk level	Impact							
	Level	Financial	Service Delivery	Safety	Reputation			
5	Critical	Loss of more than £1m	Effective service delivery is unachievable.	Fatality (Single or Multiple)	Reputation damage is severe and widespread i.e. Regulatory body intervention			
4	Major	Loss above 250K but below £1m	Effective service delivery is severely disrupted in one or more areas	Multiple serious injuries requiring professional medical treatment	Reputation damage occurs with key partners.			
3	Sizeable	Loss above £25K below £250K	Effective service delivery is disrupted in specific areas of the Council.	Injury to an individual(s) requiring professional medical treatment	Reputation damage is localised and/or minor for as a whole			
2	Moderate	Loss above £5K below £25K	Delays in effective service delivery	Minor injury - no professional medical treatment	Slight reputation damage			
1	Minor	Loss of up to £5K	Minor disruption to effective service delivery i.e., Staff in unplanned absence for up to one week	No treatment required	Reputation damage only on personal level			

### **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER – April 2024**

Timescale	Up to 6	To 12	To 24	To 60	60+
	months	months	months	months	months
Probability					
Over 80%	5	4	3	2	1
65%-80%	4	4	3	2	1
50 – 64%	3	3	3	2	1
30 – 49%	2	2	2	2	1
Under 30%	1	1	1	1	1

5	10	15	20	25
4	8	12	16	20
3	6	9	12	15
2	4	6	8	10
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

Probability

Impact x Probability = Overall Risk Rating
RISK CALCULATION MATRIX

**RISK RATING ELEMENTS - PROBABILITY**