

Corporate Risk Register – October – December 2014 (Quarter 3)

Ref	Risk that.....	Risk Owner	Impact (New)	Likelihood (New)	Quarter 1 Status	Quarter 2 Status	Quarter 3 Status	Quarter 4 Status Jan – Mar 15	Measures
01	The <u>potential</u> liability facing the Council in respect of Equal Pay significantly weakens the Council's financial position	Mike Owen / Tracey Johnson	1	1	1	1	1		Risk further reduced as most cases have now been settled. To remain on register till exercise complete.
02	There is no robust financial strategy or change management strategy to address effectively the significant funding reductions that the Council faces.	Steve Kenyon	3	3	9	9	9		<p>The Council received the 2015/16 draft settlement information in December 2014, this was broadly as expected. Bury's reduction higher than the national average, whilst funding per head is lower. Response to consultation submitted outlining this.</p> <p>Review to be carried out of risk scores following further clarity about the 2016/17 settlement from the likely Spending Review later in 2015 following the General Election. MTFS to be updated at this point.</p>

03	The budget strategy fails to address the Council's priorities and emerging issues, e.g. demographic and legislative changes	Mike Owen/Steve Kenyon	3	2	6	6	6	Medium term financial strategy is a live document that is regularly updated to take account of known national changes. This helps to inform financial forecasts and projections over the medium term. The projected forecast for month 9 is £901k overspent; an improvement from the Q2 position. Star Chamber meetings were due to be held in February to discuss the variances and the key reasons.
04	The budget strategy does not reflect, or respond to, national policy developments, e.g. Council Tax Support scheme and changes to the Business Rates regime	Mike Owen/Steve Kenyon	4	2	8	8	8	New arrangements have been in place now for over 18 months, however, risk remains high given volatility, and influence from factors which are beyond the control of the Council (e.g. appeals).
05	The Council's asset base is not operated to its maximum effect to deliver efficiency savings and ensure priorities are fulfilled. Ineffective use of assets presents both a financial and a performance risk.	Mike Owen	2	2	2	2	4	The investment strategy has been approved that will look at empty and under-utilised properties with a view to selling them or renting them, but there remained challenges with the current economic climate
08	The Council fails to manage the expectations of residents, service users & other stakeholders in light of funding reductions	Mike Owen	3	2	6	6	6	Programme of Savings consultations have taken place throughout the borough at Township Forums. A letter from the Leader has also been sent out to inform residents about the level of uncertainty that remains with the impact of current and future financial cuts.

09	The Government's changes to Council Tax Benefit impact adversely upon the Public / Vulnerable People. Also budgetary risk to the Council in the event of claimant numbers rise	Mike Owen	3	3	9	9	9		Impact on residents being managed through Welfare Reform Board. Budgetary impact continues to be assessed through monthly monitoring / Star Chamber process.
10	Changes resulting from the wider Welfare reform agenda impact adversely upon the public / vulnerable people.	Mike Owen	3	3	9	9	9		Welfare Reform Board coordinating action plan with partner organisations (e.g. Six Town, CAB). Whilst impact on individuals can have significant implications, this is being mitigated where possible.
11	That the scale and pace of Public Sector reform impacts adversely upon key Council Services, compounded by the loss of capacity following staff leaving the Council (420+ since 2010)	Mike Kelly	4	2	8	8	8		The Workforce Development Plan is in place, that the mutual settlement scheme has been launched, and individual service workforce plans are being developed to ensure continuity / succession planning. Risk will be closely monitored as the Council-wide restructure takes effect, and further voluntary retirements take effect.