

**Joint Audit and Standards Committee
5th July 2021**

OPCC Risk Register July 2021

Attached is the current OPCC Risk Register, which sets out the operating risks identified, the mitigating actions that have been put in place to manage that risk and an assessment of the current risk to the PCC.

This briefing sets out the changes to the risk register since March 2021 to note.

Risk - The risk of failing to manage our finances effectively.

The likelihood risk has been downgraded from a 3 to a 2 since the last update. The reasons for this are:

- Balanced budget set for 2021/22 with no reliance on reserves.
- MTFS agreed as part of the budget setting cycle which has a balanced budget for the next financial cycle.
- There was a reported underspend on the 2020/21 financial statements.
- We have substantially completed and have an agreed pathway for the remaining elements of the Alliance with Warwickshire that are still shared.

Risks remain in respect of

- Unclear what the medium term settlement is as waiting for Comprehensive Spending Review.
- There is a low level of reserves, though this does meet minimum assessed requirements.
- Deliverability of future savings that may be required if settlement is less than predicted.

Risk - The OPCC and Force being unable to operate effectively or respond immediately due to a public health emergency such as the Coronavirus outbreak.

The likelihood risk has been downgraded from a 5 to a 3 since the last update. The reason for this are:

- It is 15 months since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Force has continued to provide front line services to the public.
- A balanced budget has been agreed for 2021/22 which recognises budget pressures and the impact of the current operating model (including working from home) on West Mercia.
- The vaccination programme and gradual lifting of restrictions on public life means that there is a reduction in the pressure on Policing to enforce these rules.

Risks remain in respect of

- What the impact on the economy as a whole in the Medium Term will be and the pressure on public finances.
- Will there be pressure on Local Taxation when government support for the furlough scheme is reduced.
- Can the police force respond effectively to the lifting of all covid restrictions and how this may change criminal activity.

Risk - Failure to Deliver the Police and Crime Plan

This has been added as a new risk

This recognises that we have started a new PCC term and so a new Police and Crime Plan (PCP) is being produced to cover the period up to May 2024.

The PCP is the vehicle by which the Police and Crime Commissioner identifies their aspirations for the coming term and is the vehicle for determining the annual priorities throughout. Failure to produce an approved PCP will have an adverse effect on the ability of the PCC to deliver these priorities and set a strategic direction for the Force.

There is a timeline in place for the delivery of the plan which covers key actions that need to be in place to agree the plan.

The current risk level is identified as 3/3 on Likelihood/Impact

Risk - Delivery of an effective Estates Function

This has been added as a new risk

The Estates Service is a key part of delivering an estate which is fit for purpose for the current policing model, and into the future, whilst also identifying and delivering efficiencies and savings to be realised as part of the management of the PCC financial position.

The new in-house function was established on the 1st April 2021. Governance arrangements, operating structures and budgets have all been established. These are being embedded and expectation is that service will deliver efficiencies in facilities management, whilst also ensuring that the estate provides value for money and is fit for purpose.

The current risk level is identified as ¾ / 3 on Likelihood/Impact