

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE – TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2025

Question 1

Mr Osborne-Brookes, Leominster

To: Chair of Audit and Governance

The revised Corporate Risk Register approved by Cabinet in June 2025 included 8 corporate risks. There have been no changes to the risk scores for the remaining 8 corporate risks during Quarter 1. The scores of each of these risks have been reviewed by the relevant Risk Owner, supported by discussion and oversight by CLT. The last review was apparently 30th June 2025.

Will the Audit & Governance Committee consider whether the Risk Scores need updating since Q1 to reflect the latest available information & correspondence, and seek assurance from officers and the internal and external auditors, that the risk management, processes & controls are effective?

Response

Thank you for your question.

The council's current Risk Management Framework is relatively new and was first presented to Cabinet in June 2025, with formal approval given on 25 September 2025, when an updated Corporate Risk Register was also considered.

As part of this framework, corporate risks are reviewed quarterly by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). The most recent review took place last month, with each risk owner updating their area before the register was collectively reviewed, challenged, and agreed by CLT, and subsequently reported to Cabinet, to ensure the scores remain accurate and reflect the most up-to-date position.

The item on the agenda today gives the Committee the opportunity to obtain assurance of the adequacy of the council's risk management framework and internal controls in 2025/26. The Committee will seek assurance that the Risk scores have been reviewed and how this has happened. As you ask in your question the committee will also seek assurance from officers and the internal and external auditors, that the risk management, processes & controls are effective.

Question 2

Mrs Morawiecka, Hereford

To: Chair of Audit and Governance

The Corporate Risk Register identifies a number of high-level risks to 30.06.2025.

The Leader of Herefordshire Council has recently written to government highlighting that **prudential borrowing will significantly impact the revenue Budget.**

As the CLT and Cabinet continue to monitor risks throughout the year to ensure appropriate and proportionate controls are in place as part of the risk management framework and internal control framework, can they please explain to this committee and the public and MPs, what steps are being taken to mitigate the risks from prudential borrowing to protect the Revenue Budget for 2025/2026 and beyond, and reassure this Committee and all Herefordshire Councillors, that risk mitigation and internal controls are being implemented and are effective to protect Council finances and services?"

Response

Thank you for your question.

You raise a very important point about the risks associated with prudential borrowing and the impact this may have on the revenue budget going forwards. This is something that is monitored through the council's risk management framework, which ensures proportionate controls are reviewed by CLT and, as you correctly point out, that the executive of the council should consider and monitor. It is therefore my view that your question should be put to the next cabinet meeting to respond.