

Risk Register: Q4 update

Name of Committee	Audit and Scrutiny Committee
Date	23 July 2021
Report Author	Marc Ronan
Job title	Solicitor, Monitoring Officer and Data protection Officer
Contact Details	Marc.Ronan@beacons-npa.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To advise members of the risks currently logged on the Authority's Risk Register
Single Integrated Assessment	Not applicable
List of Enclosures	Enclosure I: Current risk register
Public Interest Test	Not applicable
Recommendations	To review the current risks on the Authority's Risk Register.

I.1 Introduction or Background

Democratic Services have previously managed corporate risk as an interim measure; responsibility for managing the collective responsibility of corporate risk has now passed to the Solicitor, Monitoring Officer and Data Protection Officer. This information has already been presented to the Corporate Governance Team for review and update before reporting to Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

The attached register includes all current risks. Legal risks are monitored separately and dealt with under the exempt part of the agenda.

I.2 Proposals

All risks were reviewed in detail at the last Corporate Governance Team meeting, mitigating action recorded and the RAG score reassessed where necessary.

Covid-19 risks continue, although the Authority has adapted relatively well to remote working and work is ongoing to assess and manage its sites to mitigate the spread of the virus, including Plas y Ffynnon.

Whilst front line staff have coped well to date with increased visitor pressures on the Park, the Authority expects a significant increase in this pressure if the start of the school summer holidays and further lockdown relaxation combine with good summer weather. Officers, with Welsh Government Hardship Fund support have maximised the numbers of front-line staff but a continuous review of the Authority's response will be needed throughout the summer.

Risks associated with staff capacity across the organisation remain high and are unlikely to be reduced until the Change Programme is substantially complete. Reduced capacity is impacting on all areas of the Authority. Whilst many staff have stepped up to fill the gaps, this is not sustainable for the long term. Proposals for a new senior leadership team which is the first step towards delivering the Change Programme, will be brought to NPA on the 9th August.

There is an ongoing significant risk to the Authority's ability to deliver its LDP due to the phosphate issue and mitigation measures to reduce phosphates reaching our SAC rivers may also have an impact on the Authority's ability to increase access to the Park. An Action Plan for ensuring the Authority is doing as much as possible to manage the impact of this risk is being drawn up and officers continue to work with key partners in seeking to maximise mitigation measures.

The impact of the cyber-security attack is being mitigated by extensive work to future proof our systems, and the IT Strategy in preparation will set out the ambition for future systems and ways of working.

Access to the Gunpowder works remains difficult but officers are working to repair the track and resolve issues over access rights.

Arrangements for asset management have not been progressed because of lack of capacity. However, there is a new post agreed as part of the Change Programme.

The Authority is clear new office accommodation will be needed in the near future. A survey to baseline the accommodation needed is underway and officers are exploring the possibility of a grant for Welsh government towards feasibility work.

Risks in governance arrangements and the balance of member / officer roles and responsibilities have been documented by Audit Wales and are addressed elsewhere on this agenda.

I.3 Implications and Risk

While key compliance and risks are being addressed, the continuing lack of staff capacity impacts the ability of staff to deliver further mitigating action, and members are asked to note this. Continuing to build the permanent staff structure over the next 6-12 months, and reviewing aspects of the current operation of the Authority will be essential.

I.5 Conclusion

Members are asked to note the report and make any comments.

RECOMMENDATION: To review the current risks on the Authority's Risk Register.