

Risk Champion Update – Redditch – 5th March 2025

I have a couple of things to bring to Members' attention as we move forward and consider Risk both in these meetings and also when we conduct day to day business.

- 1) We are discussing **devolution** at Full Council on the 17th March. In my last Risk review we agreed that Members be updated on devolution including any new information on devolution proposals for Worcestershire.

The papers for full Council will be available on the 7th March. These papers will set out the options that Members will be debating as well as updated comments from the Worcestershire Leaders Board which will happen tomorrow (Thursday 6th March). The present timetable is:

21st March 2025 – Deadline for Interim Plan to be sent to the MHCLG

28th Nov 2025 - Final proposals for re-organisation to be sent to MHCLG

Although everyone will be focussed on devolution, it is important that the Council ensure that processes for delivering “business as usual” continue. The Corporate Management Team is updating the forward plan for the year to include all main contracts, strategies and policies that need to be delivered. Members of this Committee need to be aware of this plan once it is agreed and ensure that it is delivered.

- 2) The Government's **financial settlement** resulted in a zero increase in Core spending power. We are looking at additional sources of Grant Income, to supplement existing funding Sources. If Members are aware of “new” funding pots could they please let the S151 Officer know.

The increase in employer National Insurance, although funded for the Council is a significant issue for both our Contractors and Rubicon, who were not funded for increases. Members need to understand that the only real way they can recoup these additional costs is through increased charges or reductions to service levels. These are potential key risks to the Council's reputation and need to be carefully monitored.

- 3) The **budget** had significant additional costs in relation to future waste/recycling costs, and in particular Food Waste collection. Across the Country, the largest risk to this service has been collection rates and how to get them high enough to remain viable.
- 4) There is a new corporate Risk in relation to the Councils having appointed a **new Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive**. Both will start on the 31st March 2025. Given the magnitude of the risks set out in this report, especially Local Government Re-organisation, this Officer change is significant. Relationships will need to be remade/reset both internally and externally and this will need to be done quickly. The Councils are putting in place mitigations and processes to de-risk this process as much as possible. Do Members have any suggestions in relation to making this process easier for them?