

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Date	12 November 2019
Report title	WMCA Strategic Risk Register
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Report has been considered by	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Consider and note the strategic risks contained within the WMCA Strategic risk register.

1. Purpose

This report provides an update on the current status of the strategic risk register as presented as Appendix 1 to support Audit, Risk and Assurance committee (ARAC) in its function to monitor the operation of risk management at West Midlands Combined Authority.

2. Background

Senior Leadership Team continues to monitor WMCA's risk environment on a regular basis to ensure key risks are captured on the Strategic Risk register and effective mitigation measures are in place to actively reduce or eliminate the resulting effects.

The continuing uncertainties surrounding the national political situation and Brexit has resulted in a number of risks which are challenging for the WMCA to actively manage at the present time. These risks are recorded in the Strategic Risk Register and the Authority continues to monitor these matters to enable an immediate response to any future emerging impacts.

3. New Risks

3.1 HS2

Following Audit, Risk and Assurance committee's request to consider the inclusion of a risk surrounding the impact to WMCA from any future decisions of the HS2 Oakervee review, this has now been incorporated within the register, and listed as reference S16 in appendix 1.

HS2 is considered a key contributor to the achievement of WMCA's strategic aims for the West Midlands and the wider economic growth of the region. Close engagement is being maintained with all stakeholders and have contributed to the evidence base of the review.

Whilst the findings of the Oakervee review is awaited, the HS2 Connectivity Package continues to be established. In the event HS2 is stopped, it is considered schemes contained within the Package will remain an essential requirement to tackle long-term public transport and poor air quality challenges to serve the growing population of the West Midlands.

3.2 TfWM reputation

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) has introduced a new risk to the register following the announcement of the potential for industrial action on the rail network as a result of proposals by the local rail franchisee to make changes to current operational arrangements. This would have significant impact on the rail service provision to its users and to the reputation of TfWM as the co-ordinator of public transport services within the West Midlands.

Whilst management of any industrial action is the responsibility of the rail franchisee, TfWM and West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE) are working closely with the franchisee and other transport operators to establish a media, communication and travel demand strategy with an aim of reducing the impact on public transport users across all modes of public transport, and demonstrating TfWM as a constructive partner in its role as public transport co-ordinator.

4. Financial Implications

N/A

5. **Legal Implications**
N/A
6. **Equalities Implications**
N/A
7. **Inclusive Growth Implications**
N/A
8. **Geographical Area of Report's Implications**
N/A
9. **Other Implications**
N/A
10. **Schedule of Background Papers**
Appendix 1 - Strategic Risk register