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REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

22 MAY 2024

Report by: Arwyn Thomas - GwE Managing Director

Subject: GwE Risk Register

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the latest GwE Risk Register to the Joint Committee.

2.0 Background

2.1 The purpose of the risk register is to formalise the process of identifying risks and consequently taking action to mitigate the risk.

2.2 Effective management of the risks will enable GwE to support the strategic objectives and priorities, make effective use of resources, and deliver outcomes as intended.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The GwE risk register is a live document which is kept under regular review. It is presented to the Joint Committee on an annual basis and also when new risks are identified where the Joint Committee needs to be made aware.

3.2 The risk register has been reviewed following the findings of the Middle Tier Review and amalgamation of the main education grants under one heading, the Local Authority Education Grant (LAEG) from 2024/25 onwards.

3.3 As GwE has changed from being a ‘joint service’ to a commissioned service, it is suggested to remove the previous risks, and add four new risks – see Appendix 1.

3.4 The following risk matrix has been followed in determining the risk status.

Risk Matrix						
		4	3	2	1	
Likelihood	Almost Certain	Low (4)	Medium (8)	High (12)	High (16)	A
	Likely	Low (3)	Medium (6)	Medium (9)	High (12)	B
	Possible	Low (2)	Low (4)	Medium (6)	Medium (8)	C
	Unlikely	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	D
		Low	Medium	High	Extreme	
		Impact				

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to review and approve the content of the register.

4.2 Determine whether there are any risks that the Joint Committee wish to bring to the attention of their respective Cabinet’s etc.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 It is unclear how much this significant change in policy will cost in difficult budgetary times.

6.0 Equalities Impact

6.1 No assessment has been undertaken by WG to assess the potential impact of these changes.

7.0 Personnel Implications

- 7.1 GwE staff morale is extremely low.
- 7.2 There is no clarity regarding alternative job options for school improvement staff post March 2025.
- 7.3 Redundancies will be required to meet the significant cut to the core budget from Local Authorities and significant reductions in grants which are now held by the Local Authorities.
- 7.4 Reduction in secondments and redundancies will affect team configuration and cause an imbalance in the support for different sectors.

8.0 Consultation Undertaken

- 8.1 Risk Register - the GwE Senior Leadership Team and the GwE Management Board.
- 8.2 No formal consultation carried out by Welsh Government.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - GwE Risk Register.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

The register sets out the new risks resulting from recent developments, and support and advice will be provided to address the repercussions of these developments, including from the governance perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Members will see that the contents of the risk register have completely changed since the last time it was presented to the Joint Committee. That is expected in the current circumstances in terms of the future of GwE. I will continue to support GwE's Managing Director in managing the risks that GwE faces.