SUR Departmental risks - Detailed Report EXCLUDING COMPLETED ACTIONS for COMMITTEE

Report Author: Faith Bowman **Generated on:** 10 November 2023



Rows are sorted by Risk Score

SUR SMT 005 Construction and Service Contracts Price Inflation Price Inflation Cause: Market conditions have led to input price inflation Impact: Inability to delivery capital and revenue projects within budget 16 Material costs and labour availability are combining to raise costs. This item impacts property projects, our facilities management (FM) provision, reactive repairs, and revenue works. Construction inflation is forecast to level out over the coming months, although not reduce. Existing contracts will continue to suffer from costs in excess of those initially anticipated at project commencement. Market conditions remain dynamic and will be kept under review. At this time it is felt appropriate that the risk score remain at its current level 14-Oct-2021 Ola Obadara	Risk no, title, creation date, owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating	& Score	Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating & Sc	core	Target Date/Risk Approach	Current Risk score change indicator
	Construction and Service Contracts Price Inflation	Event: Project and programme cost escalation Impact : Inability to delivery capital and revenue projects		16	are combining to raise costs. This item impacts property projects, our facilities management (FM) provision, reactive repairs, and revenue works. Construction inflation is forecast to level out over the coming months, although not reduce. Existing contracts will continue to suffer from costs in excess of those initially anticipated at project commencement. Market conditions remain dynamic and will be kept under review. At this time it is felt appropriate that the risk score remain at its current level	Diefo		2024	Constant

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Action no	Action description	Latest Note		Latest Note Date	Due Date
SUR SMT 005a	Procurement Strategy	8 1 1 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Ola Obadara	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
		Following the review Two Stage contracts will be used more frequently. This is the current market norm for these projects. The change enables contractors to better transfer their risk and leaves the City with a degree of cost uncertainty, even post Gateway 5. Whilst this transfer is not desired, it offers far better market coverage and reflects the prevailing external conditions. This will be kept under review.			
SUR SMT 005d	Contracts	1 1	Ola Obadara	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 005e	Contract Engagement	We are looking to engage early with our contractors on a consultancy basis to obtain as much information as possible prior to contract.	Ola Obadara	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 005f	Specification and Materials		Ola Obadara	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024

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SUR SMT 006 Construction Consultancy Management 14-Oct-2021 Ola Obadara	Cause: Poor performance by consultants Event: Abortive work, delays, or non-performance. Impact: Additional costs, project delays	Impact	16	This relates to abortive design / development. The department continues to suffer the impacts of this risk, with action being taken against consultants when their performance does not meet expectations. Aligned with other departmental risks, the department is stretched for resource. This had led to fewer leads being responsible for a greater number of projects. This reduces scrutiny capacity and can increase the likelihood of errors. There is a link to our internal recruitment and retention risk (SUR SMT 009) as property professionals across the industry are moving companies at a greater rate. This means that the delivery lead often changes throughout the life of the project, and replacements are often not at the same quality as those engaged at earlier stages.	Impact	4	31-Mar- 2024	Constant
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Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
SUR SMT 006a		The department has commenced going to market at RIBA stage 3 rather than RIBA stage 4. This is designed to prevent abortive design and development. This change followed close work with the procurement team in Chamberlain's. The impact of this change will be tracked over the coming months.	Ola Obadara	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 006b	Legal	8	Ola Obadara	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 006c		Working with Procurement to increasing due diligence, particularly in regard to the quality of contractor appointed (rebalancing the quality/cost equation). This is with the view that we will get better quality applications and this risk may reduce.	Ola Obadara	18-Aug- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 006d	Scope of works	The team is reviewing and tightening up the scope of works specification. This will counter opportunistic interpretations of the scope of works that we were seeing from some consultants.	Ola Obadara	18-Aug- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 006e	Review of appointment documents	The team is working closely with the legal department to ensure that procurement activity aligns with project objectives and the consultants meet quality requirements. Where performance has been poor action has been taken against consultants – these cases increase end-to-end timescales.	Ola Obadara	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024

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SUR SMT 009 Recruitment and retention of property professional	Cause: Uncompetitive pay and benefits structures within some professional grades; poor quality work environments; lack of professional progression over recruitment freeze and restructuring period; increased employee focus on work-life balance Event: Increasingly difficult to recruit suitably skilled staff at the correct level for the grade being recruited for. Increasingly difficulty to keep staff who get better reward packages from other organisation (both commercial and public sector) Impact: Increased vacancies, objectives unachieved or delivered late (including project delivery and income generation), reduced customer satisfaction, less real estate activity, reduced employee wellbeing, demotivation of staff. Increased costs born by the organisation though recruitment campaigns and training etc, or to the department through filling vacancies through comparatively expensive temporary contracts.	Impact 16	This risk has been identified within a number of divisions within the City Surveyor's Department. The impacts vary by Group with the risk being particularly acute in Investment Property, Surveying and Project Management. This is aligned to pressures faced in other City departments, and CSD is engaging with corporate colleagues to ensure that the particular pressures felt within this department are understood broadly. This is reflected within the 8 themes identified and communicated by Corporate HR. The City's pay and reward review has recently commenced (January 2023) and the external consultancy Korn Ferry will be assisting in this analysis. The department has also fed back into the Target Operating Model (TOM) report, being authored by Town Clerk's Department. The TOM programme has been seen by many staff as challenging, and ideally lessons can be learned for future change programmes, both in CSD and outside. Whilst these activities are being pursued corporately, the department continues to ensure that it does everything it can do internally to mitigate this risk.		31-Mar- 2024	

21-Jan-2022		10 Nov 2023		Reduce	Constant
Paul Wilkinson					

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SUR SMT 009a	Advertising	The department and the HR Business Partner has produced a recruitment best practice document, which includes ensuring that vacant posts are advertised in areas which will generate interest from suitably qualified candidates, including those currently underrepresented within our workforce.	Paul Wilkinson	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 009b	Best Practice	Including delivery of appraisals, regular one-to-ones, team and group meetings. This aims to improve communications at all levels, ensuring that CSD is a positive work environment and that issues/blockers can be raised and addressed. In some areas career graded roles have been instituted, and deployment can be further explored. CSD is supporting the work of Corporate HR in moving towards all on-line appraisal documentation. This will enable greater tracking of compliance.	Paul Wilkinson	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 009c	Communication	Including delivery of appraisals, regular one-to-ones, team and group meetings. This aims to improve communications at all levels, ensuring that CSD is a positive work environment and that issues/blockers can be raised and addressed. In some areas career graded roles have been instituted, and deployment can be further explored. CSD is supporting the work of Corporate HR in moving towards all on-line appraisal documentation. This will enable greater tracking of compliance.	Paul Wilkinson	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 009d	Engagement with HR	Some of the items highlighted as the 'causes' of this risk are outside the control of CSD, and engagement with our Corporate partners will be critical to overcoming these items. This departmental risk directly supports the Corporate Risk on "Recruitment and Retention" (CR39). CR39 is subject to a "deep dive" from Audit and Risk Management Committee, and the City Surveyor's Department will review any outcomes from this consideration.	Paul Wilkinson	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 009e	Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion	The department has an active ED&I network, which regularly engages with the City Surveyor and the Senior Management Team. This is seeking to make the department a more attractive destination for under-represented groups and seek to retain and progress staff from all backgrounds. There is corporate HR representation on this departmentally-led Group.	Ola Obadara	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 009f	Pay and Review Survey	The Corporation is reviewing pay & reward and the department is feeding into this activity. The department has highlighted that there are specific pressures within this department which may make the issue more acute within CSD roles. It should be noted that the earlier reward scheme (where those on top-of-grading salaries could achieve performance related pay) was	Paul Wilkinson	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024

	withdrawn prior to the review conclusions, and this has made our local offer less competitive		
	than our peers.		

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SUR SMT 003 Investment Strategy Risk	Cause: The business environment declines, office workers do not return to their workplace in numbers anticipated, retail tenant failure, or demand moves away from City of London assets. Event: Lower rental levels achieved, lower demand, increased turnover of tenancies, increased tenant failure Impact: Inability to maximise property returns and income for an acceptable level of risk	Impact	12	This risk captures a number of subrisks which may impact the organisation's ability to maximise its property returns for an acceptable level of risk. Greater economic uncertainty is being tracked by the team, particularly in regard to interest rates, and inflation. The department undertook tenant survey in June/July by RealService with results presented to the team in October and November. Feedback received will influence actions to be progressed in 2024/25. The on-going mitigation of this risk is important for the organisation achieving its aspirations regarding Climate Action Strategy and Major Programmes, due to the income generated by the function. As the composition of the portfolio changes, new skills will be required by those working within the function. This then links closely with the department's Recruitment & Retention risk (SUR SMT 009). 10 Nov 2023	Impact	8	31-Mar- 2024	Constant

Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
SUR SMT 003a	Macro-economic The strategy is to maintain a diverse portfolio that reduces the impact of this risk. This includes: 1. Use (office, retail, industrial) 2. Location (City, Southwark, West End etc.) 3. Tenancies (Long term Headlease geared, FRI, directly managed) 4. Covenants (multinationals, SME) 5. Asset management (lease renewals, voids, arrears, etc) 6. Monitoring retail habits in change of building use	The actions described are being undertaken and reviewed regularly with the Assistant Directors. Consideration includes the potential for recession, inflation, energy pricing etc, and how this will impact tenants and the wider market.	Robert Murphy	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 003b	Portfolio Ensuring that the overall composition of the investment portfolio takes advantage of emerging segments of growth, whilst managing the exposure to property types which are showing reducing demand.	This is achieved through regular market scanning, and the integration of learning into the Corporation's approach.	Robert Murphy	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 003c	Climate Action The alignment of our portfolio with the future strategic needs of occupiers, particularly supporting their ESG (Environmental-Social-Governance) needs. Climate Action is principally managed through the Climate Action Strategy.	Ensure that the properties offered by the City Of London are meeting the emerging needs of tenants.	Robert Murphy	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 003d	Office risk Reviewing post-pandemic office use and demand.	The department is monitoring key market use through data supplied by partners (such as football information), market research reports, and tenant feedback. The department continues to observe a 'flight to quality' – higher specified and higher quality spaces. Occupiers are increasingly considering their space as a tool in the 'war for talent'. Whilst some occupiers are downsizing their space, others are looking to create a better environment for staff through lower densities / improved amenities. This learning informs the portfolio strategy (linked to action SUR SMT 003b). The team is working with Corporate Colleagues in connection with the "Destination City" agenda, particularly in highlighting market trends to Members and key stakeholders.	Robert Murphy	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 003e	Retail Changes in consumer preferences (moving to on-line	The City Surveyor's Department continues to engage with peers to understand retail market impacts. Regular arrears monitoring, including the provision of bi-monthly dashboards Rental collection snapshot is being produced by Chamberlain's Department.	Robert Murphy	10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024

retail) which has been accentuated through the COVID-19	1	
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pandemic. Elements of the City portfolio is also dependent		1
on tourism, which is only now returning to activity seen		
pre-pandemic.		

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SUR SMT 010 Insurance - Investment and Corporate Estates 26-May-2022 Robert Murphy; Peter Young	Event: The City fails to meet the provision under its insurance policies that revaluations are undertaken by a RICS surveyor at least every five years (Investment and Corporate). The City is in breach of its legal obligations as a landlord under the terms of its leases to ensure that the full re-instatement value is insured . Impact: The insurance policy does not respond in full (Investment and Corporate). Potential legal action from commercial occupiers in the event of an incident for which there is not appropriate cover.	Impact	12	This risk identifies the need of revaluation of the City of London Estates – (Investment and Corporate) to ensure that the City reaches its legal obligations under its insurance policies. The last on-site valuations of the Investment Property Group estate and Corporate buildings (other than special sites) was undertaken in 2015. Funding has recently been identified and a budget is now in place. Instructions are being made to our contractors such that they can proceed with delivery. Once this is in train the risk score should start to reduce towards target. 10 Nov 2023	Impact	1	31-Mar- 2024	Constant

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SUR SMT 010a	Register of data	A property schedule exists and this has been updated with the survey carried out on Special Sites (by RLF).	Robert Murphy		31-Jan- 2024
SUR SMT 010b		Where leases allow, the cost can be recovered from commercial tenants, and operational occupiers as appropriate. Funding has been agreed and a budget line identified (Jan 2023). As this is now in place instructions are due to be placed with contractors such that this activity can progress.	John James; Robert Murphy		31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 010c			Robert Murphy		31-Mar- 2024

	2022		
	2023		

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SUR SMT 011 Contractor Failure 13-Feb-2023 Ola Obadara	Cause: Market conditions Event: Failure of either a main contractor, or a substantial sub contractor Impact: Delayed delivery of projects, or the delivery of projects at a higher cost	Impact		This risk relates to the failure of a main contractor, or a main subcontractor. Particularly with the second of these elements the City Corporation has not historically had significant influence over who is commissioned to undertake work. 10 Nov 2023	Impact	4	Avoid	Constant

Action no	Action description		Latest Note Date	Due Date
SUR SMT 011a		8	 	31-Mar- 2024
SUR SMT 011b		The department is instituting six-monthly reviews of contractor suitability. Historically this only happened at contract commencement. This will better prepare the organisation should the contractor (or significant sub-contractor) begin to experience difficulty.	 10-Nov- 2023	31-Mar- 2024

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SUR SMT 012 Adjudication & Disputes	Cause: The impact of COVID-19 on project delivery. Event: Regulations restricted access to sites and resulted in more design work being undertaken remotely. Productivity at sites was adversely impacted. Impact: Increased likelihood that projects were designed correctly, and resulting legal and adjudication issues, reputational harm.	Impact	8	The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in 3 years of impact at project sites. Site productivity was limited (circa 60% productivity) and much design work was undertaken remotely, or with limited site access. This has created a situation where some sites were not designed correctly, or there are issues beyond that which would normally be expected on construction builds. We are now in a situation where we are engaged with legal discussions and adjudications with project suppliers in an effort to iron out issues with final products. The department's risk register has a separate risk relating to 'construction price inflation'. The inflation risk is wider as it also captures cost escalations due to other causes (Ukraine, energy, etc). This risk only focusses on adjudication & disputes.	Impact	4	31-Mar- 2024	
31-Aug-2023				31 Aug 2023				Constant

Action no	Action description		Latest Note Date	Due Date
SUR SMT 012a		8 J	 	31-Mar- 2024