

Report to: **Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **14 March 2017**

By: **Chief Operating Officer**

Title of report: **Strategic Risk Monitoring – Quarter 3 2016/17**

Purpose of report: **To update the Committee on current strategic risks faced by the Council, their status and risk controls / responses.**

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is recommended to note the current strategic risks and the risk controls / responses being proposed and implemented by Chief Officers.

1. Background

1.1 Sound risk management policy and practice should be firmly embedded within the culture of the council, providing a proportionate and effective mechanism for the identification, assessment and, where appropriate, management of risk. This is especially important in the current climate where there remains considerable uncertainty about the future.

1.2 Robust risk management helps to improve internal control and support better decision-making, through a good understanding of individual risks and an overall risk profile that exists at a particular time. To be truly effective, risk management arrangements should be simple and should complement, rather than duplicate, other management activities.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The Council's Strategic Risk Register, which is attached as Appendix 1, is formally reviewed by DMT's and CMT on a quarterly basis. Members should note that this version of the Strategic Risk Register was reviewed by CMT on 8 February 2017 and was presented to Cabinet on 7 March 2017. The following paragraphs summarise the changes made since the risk register was last presented to Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Risk 7 (Schools) has been amended and also has updated risk control responses. Risk 1 (Roads), Risk 5 (Reconciling Policy, Performance & Resource), Risk 6 (Local Economic Growth), Risk 8 (Capital Programme) and Risk 9 (Workforce) all have updated risk control responses.

2.3 Risk 8 (Capital Programme) has a reduced risk score, having moved from Red to Amber. There is also a new strategic risk added for this review (Apprenticeship Levy), where appropriate risk control responses are currently being identified.

2.4 We will continue to explore opportunities to further strengthen the council's risk management arrangements and for mitigating our key strategic risks. It is however, important to recognise that in some cases there is an inherent risk exposure over which the Council has only limited opportunity to mitigate or control.

3. Risk Improvement Activity

3.1 Regular reviews of risk registers continue to be carried out in conjunction with departmental risk coordinators and risk owning managers to ensure that relevant risks are identified and risk controls / responses are effective. As part of this, a series of 'one to one' meetings has recently been completed where additional advice, guidance and challenge was provided to departmental risk co-ordinators in order to further develop and strengthen the management of risk.

3.2 As part of our plans to help embed risk management, some schools risk survey training has recently been provided for officers who regularly visit schools in order to assist officers to help identify risks across a full range of areas, including building risks, fire and security, visitor access, potential liability risks and health and safety related risks.

3.3 Risk register reviews have also been undertaken to support internal audit reviews, including a review of the 'East Sussex Better Together' programme risk register. A review of the Highways contract risk register will also be undertaken in due course.

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Background documents :
None