

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

Date: **14 July 2017**

By: **Chief Operating Officer**

Title of report: **Strategic Risk Monitoring**

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, which relates to Quarter 4 of 2016 / 2017, was reviewed by CMT on 24 May 2017 and was presented to Cabinet on 27 June 2017. The following paragraphs summarise the changes made since the risk register was last presented to Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 14 March 2017.

2.2 The Strategic Risk Register, Appendix 1, has been reviewed. Risk 8 (Capital Programme) has been updated and also has updated risk control responses. Risk 4 (Health), Risk 5 (Reconciling Policy, Performance & Resources), Risk 6 (Local Economic Growth) and Risk 9 (Workforce) all have updated risk control responses.

2.3 A new risk (Cyber attack) has been added to the Strategic Risk Register for this review. No existing risks have been removed and all risk ratings remain unchanged.

2.4 Risk 11 (Apprenticeship levy) currently states under 'risk control / response' that a strategy and action plan will be developed and it is anticipated that this will be updated for the Quarter 1 review.

2.5 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 is scheduled for July 2017, where additional advice, guidance and challenge will be provided to departmental risk co-ordinators in order to further develop and strengthen the management of risk.

3.2 In order to further support the embedding of a sound risk management culture within the council, a risk management workshop was provided for the management team of the Orbis Procurement function, and risk management advice and guidance has also been provided to the Orbis IT and Digital management team to support a refresh of the relevant service risk register.

3.3 As part of the Orbis shared service arrangement, risk management support is being provided to Surrey County Council, while the Risk Manager at SCC is seconded to a different service.

3.4 Risk register reviews are also undertaken to support appropriate internal audits and consequently a risk register review of the Highways Contract is currently being undertaken.

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Background documents :
None