

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

Date: **17 July 2015**

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 is attached as Appendix A, which 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 3 June 2015 and was presented to Cabinet on 29 June 2015.

2.2 Whilst the overall number of risks within the register has remained the same since it was last presented to the ABVCSSC in March 2015, a number of amendments to the narrative have been made. In particular, risk 3 (Care Act) has been amended to reflect the Care Act being enacted on 1 April 2015, risk 1 (Roads), risk 4 (Health), risk 6 (Local Economic Growth), risk 7 (Schools), risk 8 (Capital Programme), risk 9 (Workforce) and risk 10 (Welfare Reform) all have amended risk control responses. There are no changes to any existing risk scores.

2.3 The issues raised by the ABVCSSC at its last meeting relating to risk 1 (Roads) and risk 7 (Schools) have been reviewed by the relevant departmental management teams and the risk control measures amended accordingly. Discussions are continuing to take place with the Director of Children's Services over further potential amendments to the schools' risk which Members will be updated on in due course.

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 to ensure that relevant risks are identified and risk controls / responses are effective.

3.2 As part of our plans to help strengthen project and programme risk management, risk reviews in support of the Agile Programme, Waste PFI, Care Act Implementation and the Broadband project are being undertaken, and ongoing risk management support continues to be provided.

3.3 In order to further support the embedding of risk management within the culture and practice of the council, a series of 'lunch and learn' training sessions have been scheduled for September 2015, open to all managers who have a responsibility to manage risks associated with their services.

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Background documents :
None