

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

Date: **15 March 2016**

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 1, 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 10th February 2016 and was presented to Cabinet on 8th March 2016.

2.2 Whilst the overall number of risks within the register has remained the same since it was last presented to the ABVCSSC in November 2015, a number of amendments to the narrative have been made. Risk 4 (Health) has been updated and the risk control amended. Risk 1 (Roads), risk 6 (Local Economic Growth), risk 9 (Workforce), and risk 10 (Welfare Reform) all have amended risk control responses. No risk scores have been amended for this review and no risks have been removed from the register.

2.3 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.

3.2 As part of our plans to help strengthen and embed risk management, risk reviews in support of the Highways contract and the joint Procurement function have been undertaken, and ongoing risk management support continues to be provided.

3.2 A meeting of the South East Risk Managers forum was held in February 2016. This group was set up by the Risk & Insurance Manager to help identify and share good risk management practice among members of the South East Seven group of councils. The meeting was attended by risk managers from East Sussex, Surrey, West Sussex and Essex County Councils, and Brighton & Hove City Council.

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Background documents :
None