

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

Date: **15 July 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, 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 25 May 2016 and was presented to Cabinet on 28 June 2016.

2.2 While the overall number of risks within the Strategic Risk Register has remained the same as when it was last presented to the ABVCSSC in March 2016, several risks have been updated. Risk 1 (Roads), risk 3 (Care Act), risk 4 (Health), risk 5 (Resource), risk 6 (Local Economic Growth), risk 8 (Capital Programme) and risk 9 (Workforce) all have amended risk control responses. The categorisation of risk 3 (Care Act) has also been reduced and this risk now falls under the green 'low' risk category.

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 Information Management element of the Agile implementation project and the East Sussex Better Together programme are currently being undertaken, and ongoing risk management support continues to be provided.

3.3 A meeting of the South East Risk Managers forum was held in June 2016. This group was set up by the Risk and 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, Kent and Essex County Councils, Brighton & Hove City Council and Medway Council.

Kevin Foster
Chief Operating Officer

Contact Officers: Russell Banks, Head of Assurance, Tel: 01273 481447
Rawdon Philips, Risk & Insurance Manager, Tel: 01273 481593

Local Member: All

Background documents :
None