

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director Corporate Services

25 July 2013

RISK MANAGEMENT

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to enable Council to note the Risk Management Strategy and the Strategic Risk Register.
2. This is not a key decision but it has been brought before Council because risk management best practice includes the reporting of the Risk Management Strategy and the Strategic Risk Register once a year to Council.

Recommendation

3. That Council notes the Risk Management Strategy and the Strategic Risk Register.

Reasons for Recommendation

4. The Risk Management Strategy applies best practice to the Council's risk management arrangements, ensuring that these remain adequate and effective.
5. The Strategic Risk Register forms the record of corporate risks the Council currently faces in the delivery of services and the achievement of strategic aims, together with control measures to address / sources of assurance over the risks.

Background

6. Risk management best practice is that the executive and governance roles should be carried out separately. These roles were therefore allocated between the Executive and Corporate Governance Committee in February 2010, as follows:
 - (a) agreement and ownership of the strategic risks facing the Council - the executive role - to the Executive, led by the appropriate portfolio holder;
 - (b) approval of the risk management strategy; advice and assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management - the governance role - to Corporate Governance Committee.
7. The Council's Risk Management Strategy was first adopted in January 2004 and has since been updated several times.
8. Also since January 2004, the authority has maintained a Strategic Risk Register, which is reviewed quarterly by Executive Management Team (EMT) and the Corporate and Customer Services Portfolio Holder (as the executive Member responsible for risk management).

Considerations

9. Corporate Governance Committee reviewed the draft Risk Management Strategy at its meeting on 19 March 2013, following which it was amended in line with recommendations from that meeting and subsequent comments from members of the

committee. Corporate Governance Committee approved the revised Risk Management Strategy, attached as **Appendix A**, at its meeting on 28 June 2013.

10. The Corporate and Customer Services Portfolio Holder reviewed and approved the Strategic Risk Register, attached as **Appendix B**, at Cabinet on 27 June 2013.

Implications

11. Financial, Legal, Staffing	There are no immediate financial, legal or staffing implications resulting from this report. Some control measures in the Strategic Risk Register may have financial, legal or staffing implications; if so, these will be considered separately.
Risk Management	The Risk Management Strategy ensures the authority has an effective risk management process, reflecting the Council's Aims, and providing appropriate ownership and assurance. The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed quarterly in order to minimise the possibility of the Council being adversely affected should either an unforeseen risk arise or an assessed risk not be properly planned for.
Equality and Diversity	The Risk Management Strategy and the authority's risk management processes have no inherent equality and diversity implications; however, Equalities is included as a risk area on the Strategic Risk Register.
Equality Impact Assessment completed	No. A Partial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the Risk Management Strategy was prepared in March 2011; the impacts were assessed as neutral, with no issues arising.
Climate Change	The Risk Management Strategy and process has no inherent climate change implications; however, 'Safeguarding the Council's services against climate change' is included as a risk on the Strategic Risk Register.

Consultations

12. The review of the Risk Management Strategy took recommendations from Internal Audit's risk management review into account, as well as recommendations and comments from Corporate Governance Committee. Corporate Governance Committee approved the revised Risk Management Strategy on 28 June 2013.
13. Risk owners and members of EMT were consulted regarding the review of the Strategic Risk Register. EMT considered the proposed updated risk register in June 2013 and recommended that the Corporate and Customer Services Portfolio Holder approve it, which he did at Cabinet on 27 June 2013.

Consultation with Children and Young People

14. There has been no consultation with children and young people regarding this report.

Effect on Strategic Aims

15. The Risk Management Strategy and the Strategic Risk Register relate to the Council's commitment to listen to and engage with residents, parishes and businesses to ensure the Council delivers first class services and value for money:
- (a) they contribute to the Council's corporate governance responsibilities;

- (b) they ensure that risks involved in the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and in meeting its strategic Aims are identified and managed adequately and effectively.

Conclusions / Summary

- 16. Executive and governance roles are appropriately allocated between the Corporate & Customer Services Portfolio Holder, as the designated lead executive Member for risk management, and Corporate Governance Committee:
 - (a) the committee retains the key role of providing independent assurance that the Council's Risk Management Strategy and process are adequate and effective;
 - (b) the quarterly review of the Strategic Risk Register enables the Council to manage its strategic risks to an acceptable level.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None unpublished

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