

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet 11 September 2008
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Finance Project Officer

REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to review and agree that responsibility for risk management should remain with the Corporate Governance Committee.
2. This not a key decision, however when the Council's risk management strategy was reviewed in September 2007, Cabinet agreed, subject to there being no adverse comments by the Council's internal and external auditors, to assign responsibility for risk management to the Corporate Governance Committee, with a review in one year's time. (Corporate Governance Committee, at its meeting on 26 September 2007, agreed to take on responsibility for risk management, subject to there being no adverse comments by the Council's internal and external auditors, with a review in one year's time.)

Considerations

3. Corporate Governance Committee has taken up its risk management responsibility with enthusiasm and energy:
 - (a) the Committee challenged items included in the strategic risk register;
 - (b) between meetings, the former Chairman of the Committee and the Leader of the Council discussed risk management matters with the Chief Executive;
 - (c) the former Chairman of the Committee kept himself well informed on risk management and other governance matters.
4. A review of the risks identified and assessed over the period of the past year has revealed that several strategic risks have been successfully managed, indicating that the Council's risk management strategy and process is effective:
 - (a) Delivering the Medium Term Financial Strategy;
 - (b) Achieving the CGI Improvement Plan;
 - (c) Completing Housing Futures, Phase One;
 - (d) Engagement in the LAA process and outcomes;
 - (e) Implementing the Choice Based Lettings system.In addition, assessments of three other strategic risks have been reduced: Managing the delivery of political priorities; Better Regulation Agenda; and Planning for Growth.
5. There have been no adverse comments from the internal or external auditors.

Options

6. Cabinet could agree that the Corporate Governance Committee should retain responsibility for risk management, including annual review of the risk management strategy and process and quarterly review and approval of the strategic risk register and associated action plans. (***This is the recommended option.***)

7. Alternatively, Cabinet could take the view that responsibility for risk management should be transferred to another Member body, such as Cabinet itself, a portfolio holder, Scrutiny and Overview Committee, or Council. However, as Corporate Governance Committee has functional responsibility for risk management within its Terms of Reference, such a decision would require a change to the Constitution and therefore a recommendation to Council, possibly via the Constitution Review Working Party.

Implications

8. Financial, Legal, Staffing	There are no immediate financial, legal or staffing implications resulting from this report.
Risk Management	Confirming the Member body responsible will ensure that risk management continues to be maintained effectively.
Equal Opportunities	There are no inherent equal opportunities implications resulting from this report.

Consultations

9. Executive Management Team reviewed the Council's risk management process at its meeting on 27 August 2008 and consider that the Corporate Governance Committee remains the most appropriate Member body to be responsible for risk management.

Effect on Corporate Objectives and Service Priorities

10.	Work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future
	Deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community
	The proposals in this report contribute to the Council's corporate governance responsibilities.
	Enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work

Conclusions/Summary

11. The Corporate Governance Committee has exercised its responsibility for risk management effectively; responsibility for risk management should therefore remain with the Committee.

Recommendation

12. That responsibility for risk management remain with the Corporate Governance Committee, to include annual review of the risk management strategy and process and quarterly review and approval of the strategic risk register and associated action plans.

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

None unpublished

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