

REPORT TO: **AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **22 JUNE 2016**

TITLE: **RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT**

LEAD OFFICER: **SIMON FREEMAN, HEAD OF FINANCE
(01279) 446228**

RECOMMENDED that the Committee reviews the Corporate Risk Register and specifically CR02, as set out in this report and accompanying appendices A and B.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Audit and Standards Committee's terms of reference includes the responsibility to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the Council.
2. The Council's Risk Management Strategy, previously agreed by the Committee, states that the responsibility of the Audit and Standards Committee is to "*understand, scrutinise, and endorse the Council's risk management strategy and monitor the Council's risk appetite.*"
3. The corporate risk register is brought to each Audit and Standards Committee meeting for scrutiny and challenge.

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

4. The corporate risk register continues to be reviewed on at least a quarterly basis by CMT/HoS, who also continue to monitor any cross cutting or strategic risks contained in service plans.
5. At its 24 May 2016 meeting, CMT/HoS considered the inclusion of the following risks into the corporate risk register following debate at the Risk Management Group:
 - (i) Business Continuity Planning
 - (ii) Harlow Trading Services
 - (iii) Prevent
6. The corporate risk register format is being built into the new service planning and risk management system (InPhase). This database will also hold the corporate risk register and ensure linkages with operational risks, corporate objectives and performance management information. The technical build is almost complete and is undergoing service user testing before being rolled out across the Council in the summer.

SUMMARY OF KEY RISKS, JUNE 2016

7. The corporate risk register relates to key and cross-cutting corporate issues and strategic risks contained in Service Plans. Corporate or Service level risks scoring 18 or higher are reported to CMT/HoS and are identified in the corporate risk register attached at Appendix A.
8. Risks scoring 20 or higher are presented to Cabinet within the quarterly Joint Finance and Performance Report (JFPR). The Quarter 4 JFPR report, to be presented to the Cabinet in July 2016, will highlight the following two risks:
 - (i) If a sustainable budget is not secured the Council will lack financial resilience (CR01).
 - (ii) If the town lacks a suitable housing mix it will not attract or retain residents (CR03).

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE REVIEW

9. The Audit and Standards Committee previously agreed to focus on one or two key risks at each meeting, which is in line with good practice by ensuring all risks are covered within an acceptable cycle of meetings.
10. In November 2015 the Committee looked at CR01 (sustainable budget) and CR03 (housing mix). At its March 2016 meeting CR06 (regarding a clean and green environment) was examined in detail.
11. It is proposed the Committee examines CR02 relating to 'the Harlow Offer' in light of the recent successes in attracting new enterprises such as Public Health England to the town. The narrative from the risk register for CR02 is presented in Appendix B in an easier to read format.

CONCLUSION

12. The corporate risk register continues to be scrutinised on a regular basis by CMT/HoS and provides a mechanism for Committee challenge by presenting an update at each meeting.

IMPLICATIONS

Place (includes Sustainability)

None specific

Author: **Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

Finance (includes ICT)

Any specific implications are set out in the report

Author: **Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

Housing

None specific

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

Community Wellbeing (includes Regeneration, Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None specific

Author: **Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

Governance (includes HR)

Risk Management is an important part of the council's overall governance arrangements and this is why the Audit and Standards Committee needs to consider the adequacy of overall arrangements on a regular basis.

Author: **Brian Keane, Head of Governance**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Corporate and service risk registers

Risk Management Strategy and Toolkit

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

CMT – Corporate Management Team

HoS – Heads of Service

Appendices

Appendix A – Corporate Risk Register

Appendix B – Corporate risk CR02