

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 In 2013 Cabinet approved a Risk Management Strategy that set out the council's intentions and approach to good risk management in a pragmatic and proportionate way. Cabinet and the Audit Committee also receive annually a revised strategic risk register that reflects the significant risks to the achievement of the council's priorities.
- 1.2 The introduction of Our Corporate Plan 2016-2020 necessitated a review of the strategy and a revised strategic risk register that reflects the most significant risks to the council achieving the priorities set out in the new plan. This was presented to Cabinet for approval in November 2016 and is now presented to the Audit Committee for consideration.
- 1.3 Our Corporate Plan, Delivery Plan approved by Cabinet in February 2016 recognises that government funding remains a key issue looking forward with a likely further 11.7% reduction in the budget from 2016 over the next four years. Any future plans must address this major challenge and the priorities within the corporate plan are all underpinned by the financial commitment to 'living within our means'. Consequently this remains the overriding risk.
- 1.4 Collaboration is also a key feature for future service delivery and the ongoing devolution discussions will be appraising options to work with others to achieve more.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Risk management aims to identify the significant risks that may impact on the Council achieving its objectives. Its purpose is to evaluate, design and implement effective measures to reduce both the likelihood and potential impact of these risks occurring.
- 2.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to have in place arrangements for managing risks under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 which require a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the body's functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk. As such it features strongly in the Council's Local Code of Practice for Corporate Governance and is one of the primary assurance strands in the Annual Governance Statement which places significant reliance on a robust risk management framework.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The Council's Risk Management framework is made up of a number of elements largely embedded in existing processes. In addition to strategic risk management, illustrated through the Strategy and Strategic Risk Register, it includes work place health and safety, ICT disaster recovery, business continuity planning and operational risk management including the provision of third party insurance cover and claims handling.

- 3.2 Risk is also considered as part of service and budget planning with resource plans giving consideration to challenges for each portfolio.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 presents the shortened Risk Management Strategy agreed by Cabinet. Although reviewed to ensure its continued relevance and content accuracy the strategy remains largely unchanged as an accessible and proportionate document that clearly sets out the council's intentions and approach to risk management.

4. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

- 4.1 The revised Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 2) summarises the most significant risks to the delivery of Our Corporate Plan and the proposed actions to mitigate these risks. The mitigation offered is closely aligned to portfolio resource and service plans and in some cases relies on working with partners to help achieve the objectives. Other service specific risks and their analysis are considered in individual Service Risk Registers.
- 4.2 The Strategic Risk Register will be considered and updated annually alongside the performance management framework.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none arising directly from this report although 'living within our means' remains the overriding risk.

6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 7.1 Consider and note the revised strategic risk register at Appendix 2.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Rebecca Drummond
Service Manager – Business Improvement &
Customer Services
Tel: (023) 8028 5588
Email: rebecca.drummond@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Cabinet 02/11/2016 Report (Strategic Risk Register)
Audit Committee 26/09/14 Report (Strategic Risk Register)
Cabinet 04/09/13 Report B (Risk Management Strategy and Strategic Risk Register)