

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 50

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Strategic Risk Register		
Date of Meeting:	20 December 2011		
Report of:	Director of Finance		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Jackie Algar	Tel: 29-1273
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Audit Committee has a role to monitor and form an opinion on the effectiveness of risk management and internal control.
- 1.2 A key way to discharge this role is for the Committee to review the Council's Strategic Risk Register which was updated by the Strategic Leadership Board on 16 November 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Audit Committee are requested to:

- 2.1 Note the revised Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1).

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Strategic Risk Register details the current prioritised issues which affect the achievement of the Council's priorities, including in relation to its work with others across the city. It is set by the Strategic Leadership Board and reviewed every six months, usually in May and November each year
- 3.2 This Strategic Risk Register provides evidence of a risk aware and risk managed organisation. Generally, it reflects risk scenarios that will be common to comparable local authorities in this current period of change and financial challenge for the public sector.
- 3.3 Strategic Risk Management Action Plans will be updated or developed for each Strategic Risk and reported to the Committee in Part 2 of this meeting.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with the council's Strategic Leadership Board, the Corporate Management Team and with Cabinet Members in accordance with recommendations of the Audit Committee.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Strategic Risk Register reflects a number of risks which have potential significant financial implications for the authority either directly or indirectly. The risk owners are responsible for overseeing the effective management of the risks through performance compacts and the Performance & Risk Management Framework. The Risk Management Action Plans will detail work required to address the strategic risks. This should ensure that all potential financial impacts are properly considered and likely financial outcomes are reflected in medium term financial plans and budget strategies, which are continually updated to reflect changing assumptions and likelihood of risk.

The council's Section 151 Officer also has regard to risk assessments in developing the medium term financial strategy and budget strategy. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Finance Officer of a local authority to report on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the reserves and contingencies for which the budget provides. The Chief Finance Officer must be satisfied that the budget estimates contain adequate provision for those items of expenditure which might reasonably be expected to occur in the financial year.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michelle Herrington *Date: 17/11/11*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 This report comes before Audit Committee in order for the Committee to discharge its function of providing independent assurance of the adequacy of the council's risk management and associated control environment.

Having reviewed the latest Strategic Risk Register, the Committee may, if it considers it appropriate, make recommendations to Council, Cabinet, senior officers or another relevant body in the council.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon *Date: 17/11/11*

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There will be an Equalities Impact Assessment of the new Performance and Risk Management Framework.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The risk management methodology includes identification and management of sustainability issues. There is a specific Strategic Risk, SR 8, which relates to Sustainability. However, Sustainability will be incorporated as appropriate across all Strategic Risks and Risk MAPs

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct implications.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Strategic Risk Register is evidence of risk management in operation and relates to changes to the council's operating framework.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 There are no direct implications.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 There are no direct implications.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Strategic Risk Register 2011-12 (update 16 November 11)

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None