



CABINET: 13 September 2016

Report of: Borough Treasurer

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor C. Wynn

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SUBJECT: RISK MANAGEMENT

Borough Wide Interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To set out details on the Key Risks facing the Council and how they are being managed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the progress made in relation to the management of the risks shown in the Key Risks Register (Appendix A) be noted and endorsed.
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3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Risk management is not about being 'risk averse' – it is about being 'risk aware'. Risk is ever present and some amount of risk taking is inevitable if the Council is to achieve its objectives. Risk Management is about effectively managing risks that could affect the Council and the community. It is also about making the most of opportunities and achieving objectives. By being 'risk aware' the Council is in a better position to avoid threats and take advantage of opportunities.
- 3.2 It is a best practice requirement that the Risk Management Policy and the Key Risks Register are reviewed and reported to Members on a regular basis. Consequently it is our standard practice to report on Key Risk Register issues to

Cabinet every 6 months. The next report to Cabinet in March 2017 will also include a review of the Risk Management Policy.

- 3.3 Risk Management covers the whole spectrum of risks and not just those associated with finance, business continuity, insurance and health and safety. It also considers risks associated with service provision, compliance with legislation, public image (reputation) and environment. Key Risks are defined as the highest priority risks that may prevent the Council from achieving its objectives, or may result in the failure of a service, or the failure to comply with legislation. The Key Risks Register gives a summary of these risks and the work that is being undertaken to mitigate them, although many of these risks will have already been the subject of separate committee reports. In addition each Service maintains its own Service risk register of the specific risks that they face.

4.0 KEY RISK REGISTER

- 4.1 The Key Risk Register attached (Appendix A) shows the current Key Risks and the measures in place to manage those risks. The regular reporting of the Register provides Members with an opportunity to scrutinize key risks and provides assurance that these risks are being effectively controlled.

The main change in the register since the last version was produced is that a General Revenue Account Policy Options report was presented to the July Council meeting to set out how the financial challenges facing the GRA will be addressed and to ensure that a balanced budget can be set for 2017/18. Similarly a Housing Revenue Account Policy Options report was presented to the same Council meeting to manage the risk of setting a balanced HRA budget.

- 4.2 There are no risks that have been assessed in the “very concerned” category that would require urgent action at the highest level to reduce the risk to an acceptable position. There are a number of risks that have been assessed in the concerned category, but in each case these have been either the subject of recent Committee reports or have been considered through the budget process.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The successful management of the key risks facing the Council will ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The continued identification and review of key risks is essential to ensure the management and mitigation of those risks, the successful achievement of the Authority's objectives, and the maximisation of opportunities. By continually monitoring and reviewing the Risks and the Risk Management Framework we will ensure that it continues to improve, develop and meet best practice requirements.
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Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Appendices

Appendix A – Key Risks Register

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.