Report of: **Borough Treasurer**

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor C. Wynn

Contact for further information: Rebecca Spicer (Extn. 5098)
(E-mail: rebecca.spicer@westlancs.gov.uk)

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.

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.

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 scrutinise Key Risks and provides assurance that these risks are being effectively controlled.

4.2   Two risks have been removed from the Key Risk Register since the last report to Cabinet in March 2017. The Expiry of the Lancashire Waste Partnership Agreement has been removed as the replacement arrangements that will come into effect from April 2018 are now clear and have been built into service and financial plans. The risk of significant loss of personal data has also been removed as although all risk cannot be removed (as individual/small scale incidents may always occur) there are now adequate controls and a framework in place to effectively manage and control this area.

4.3   A new risk has been entered onto the register in relation to Management of Electronic Records, which is a significant governance issue that was reported in the latest Annual Governance Statement. This risk falls into the "concerned" category and work is already underway to put effective arrangements in place to manage and control this issue.

4.4   The scoring of the risk relating to the Land Auction has moved from the "uneasy" category to the "concerned category," as there is now an increased likelihood that the project will not be completed within the given timescale.

4.5   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.

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.

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.