



AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Risk Management Update
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Meeting Date:	22 nd October 2009
Directorate:	Finance and Support
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr David Perkins
Ward(s)	Not Applicable

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on recent progress in risk and business continuity management across the authority.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note recent progress in risk and business continuity management across the authority.
- 2.2 To note the Strategic Risk Register.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 At the Committee meeting on 2nd June 2009, the Audit Committee requested for an update of the Strategic Risk Register to be submitted at the next Committee meeting.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 Management Board undertook a quarterly review of the new Strategic Risk Register on 3rd September 2009. Management Board reviewed outstanding actions, discussed the new risks and ensured awareness of the high risks. The Strategic Risk Register and quarterly review process provide an early warning system to alert Management Board to potential opportunities and threats. A copy of the current Strategic Risk Register is attached. *Please note - the current Excel format is a temporary approach whilst we move across to P+, the Council's performance and risk management software.*

- 3.2.2 The Risk and Business Continuity Manager will undertake a workshop at a forthcoming Corporate Briefing to further highlight the expectations on Heads of Service in managing the Council's strategic risks.
- 3.2.3 The implementation of P+ for the management of the Council's risk registers is entering the final stages. Over 25 Risk Coordinators have been trained to use the P+ risk management module. We are currently working with the Risk Coordinators to cleanse the data and aim to start monthly reporting in November.
- 3.2.4 As we enter the 2010/11 Service-Planning cycle, risk management will again feature as an integral part of this process. Heads of Service will review their current risk registers against their new service objectives and update and realign their registers accordingly.
- 3.2.5 In line with the Council's business continuity planning, a list of the Council's critical functions has been through a final challenge with Directors and will shortly be going to Management Board for approval.
- 3.2.6 All service areas that have critical functions have now produced well developed draft continuity plans covering each of the critical functions within their area. The next step in the business continuity planning process is to undertake a series of desktop and live exercises to test the plans and incorporate any lessons learned.

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 To suggest any additional areas to cover in future updates.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 None.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 This report provides an update on the progress being made to ensure that risk and business continuity management arrangements are in place across the Council.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

4.4 Equality

- 4.4.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 4.5.1 The Head of Finance & Assets and the Director of Finance & Support have been asked to comment on this report.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

- 4.6.1 Supporting the Council in achieving its priorities and objectives at all levels within the organisation.

- 4.6.2 Providing an early warning system to alert Officers and Members to potential opportunities and threats.
- 4.6.3 Targeting resources at areas and issues of greatest risk where the Council's objectives are most under threat.
- 4.6.4 Reduction in interruptions to service delivery.
- 4.6.5 Continuity of critical Council activities.
- 4.6.6 Enabling the Council to act proactively, avoiding reactive management wherever possible.
- 4.6.7 Better-informed decision-making throughout the Council.
- 4.6.8 Protecting and enhancing the reputation of Northampton Borough Council.

4.7 Other Implications

- 4.7.1 Not applicable

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 The Strategic Risk Register – *to be printed on A3 paper.*

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