NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Risk Management Update

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Meeting Date:	11th January 2010
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 Audit Committee requested an update on the developments within Risk and Business Continuity Management to be submitted to the next Committee meeting.

3.2 Issues

3.2.1 Following the same process as last year, Heads of Service will be updating service-area risk registers in line with their 2010/11 Service Plans, identifying the risks associated with the delivery of the service objectives.

3.2.2 Management Board undertook a quarterly review of the Strategic Risk Register on 17th December 2009. Management Board reviewed outstanding actions, discussed the new risks and ensured awareness of the high risks. 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.

3.2.3   The Risk Manager is in the early stages of introducing improved risk management in partnerships. Risk management is one element of good partnership governance and contributes to partnerships achieving the objectives they set out to deliver whilst protecting the interests of the individual partners and stakeholders. In a partnership environment, risks should be managed both from the perspective of the partnership and of each individual partner.

3.2.4   The Council's Risk Management Strategy will be reviewed and updated early in 2010. It is anticipated that the changes made to the Strategy will not be significant and therefore it is proposed for Audit Committee and the Director of Finance and Support to approve any changes.

3.2.5   Part of the Strategy review will involve an assessment of the Council's Risk Maturity. This enables the Council to benchmark its current risk management capability.   It will also provide an understanding of how and where improvements can be made.

3.2.6   Following the power failure at Cliftonville House on 1st December 2009, we are in the process of gathering lessons that we can learn from the event. These lessons include things that worked well and things that did not work so well. A report will be produced summarising the findings. The Chair of Audit Committee has asked for the report to be submitted to the Committee, it is anticipated that the report will be available for the Committee Meeting in March. However, a verbal update is to be provided at today's meeting.

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

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Providing an early warning system to alert Officers and Members to potential opportunities and threats.

4.6.2 Targeting resources at areas and issues of greatest risk where the Council's objectives are most under threat.

4.6.3 Reduction in interruptions to service delivery.

4.6.4 Continuity of critical Council activities.

4.6.5 Enabling the Council to act proactively, avoiding reactive management wherever possible.

4.6.6 Protecting and enhancing the reputation of Northampton Borough Council.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1   Not applicable

5. Background Papers

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

**Sue Morrell,
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