NORTHAMPTON
B O R O U G H   C O U N C I L

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Risk Management Update

AGENDA STATUS: **PUBLIC**

Meeting Date:	22nd March 2010
Directorate:	Finance and Support
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr David Perkins
Ward(s)	Not Applicable

1. Purpose

1.1   To provide an update on progress in Risk and Business Continuity Management across the authority.

1.2   To highlight the recent changes to the Risk Management Strategy and Risk and Business Continuity Management Handbook.

2. Recommendations

2.1   To note the recent assessment of the Council's Risk Maturity.

2.2   To note the revised Risk Management Strategy and Risk and Business Continuity Management Handbook.

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 Committee meeting.

3.2 Issues

3.2.1   The Risk Management Strategy and The Risk and Business Continuity Management Handbook have undergone a review to ensure recent audit recommendations and general good practice is captured.   Please see Appendix A and B.

3.2.2 The key developments within the Risk Management Strategy and the Handbook are:

- Includes opportunities as well as threats when identifying risks.

- Provides more guidance on risk management in partnerships and projects.

- Aligns roles, responsibilities and reporting to the revised governance process.

- Improved Business Continuity Plan Template.

- Revised action plan for the coming year 2010/11.

3.2.3 Only significant changes to the Strategy have to be approved by Cabinet, therefore it is proposed that the Cabinet Member responsible for Risk Management and the Director of Finance and Support approve these minor improvements.

3.2.4 Appendix C includes a summary of the 2009/10 Risk Management Strategy Action Plan.

3.2.5 In revising the Risk Management Strategy, an assessment of the Council's Risk Maturity was undertaken. This enables us to benchmark the Council's current risk management capability and helps us to understand where improvements can be made. The Council's current assessment of risk maturity is Level 3, please see Appendix D.

3.2.6 The Strategy Action plan outlines the actions to be undertaken in 2010/11 to further improve the Council's Risk Management Function.

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 – Risk Management Strategy.

5.2   Appendix B – Risk and Business Continuity Management Handbook.

5.3   Appendix C - 2009/10 Risk Management Strategy Action Plan.

5.4   Appendix D – Risk Maturity Assessment.

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