Appendices 1		Item No. 9

NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Risk Register Reviews

AGENDA STATUS: **PUBLIC**

Meeting Date:	26th July 2010
Directorate:	Finance and Support
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr David Perkins
Ward(s)	Not Applicable

1. Purpose

1.1   To provide an opportunity for the Audit Committee to undertake a review of a service-level risk register at each committee meeting.

2. Recommendations

2.1   To undertake a review of the Housing risk register.

2.2   To highlight any suggestions for improvement.

2.3   To select the next service–level risk register to be reviewed.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1   At the Audit Committee meeting on 22nd March, the Committee requested that each service area risk register be routinely brought before the Committee for review.

3.2 Issues

3.2.1   Points for Audit Committee to consider as part of the review:

- Is the register complete are there gaps in the spreadsheet.
- Are there any key risks missing, highlight additional risks to be considered.
- Are there overdue actions.
- Challenge scores where necessary.
- Discuss in more detail any high risks or risks of specific interest.

3.2.2   The Council essentially has five areas of risk management across the authority, strategic, service, project, partnership and operational.

3.2.3 The registers being reviewed through this process are the service-level registers and therefore are focussed on risks to achieving service objectives. They should not include day-to-day operational risks.

3.2.4 The Housing Key Service Priorities are detailed below:

- Achieve a 2 star (good) with "excellent prospects for improvement" audit commission rating

- Complete the housing asset management strategy

- Deliver decent homes phase 2

- Create a new formal structure for tenants (aligned with TSA proposals)

- Develop key strategies to support no 4 above (Customer Engagement Strategy and Tenant Participation agreement)

- Develop Housing PFI outline business case for Eastfields and Thorplands estates

- Develop an independent living strategy to address a number of challenges posed by an ageing population and future of SP funding

- Delivering a new housing strategy (2010-15) relevant to Northampton (including BME strategy)

- Deliver a range of ICT business –critical modules to support the continual improvement of Housing services

- Respond to the increase in expressed demand for housing assistance (e.g. increasing the range and effectiveness of options and homelessness prevention)

- Delivering 8 new build homes

- Ensure all sections of the housing directorate reach national upper quartile performance

- Deciding on future housing investment options strategy

- Respond to the reform of housing finance and its implications for Northampton

- Improving the quality of NBC estates and communal areas

- Provision of an effective, quality anti-social behaviour service

- Deliver key actions within the Repairs and Void improvement action plans to ensure dramatic improvements to the Property Maintenance service

3.3 Choices (Options)

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

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 None.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 A balanced approach needs to be taken when considering the cost of mitigating actions against the level of perceived or actual risk.

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

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, the Head of Finance & Assets and the Head of Housing Needs and Support 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 – Housing Risk Register (please print on A3 paper)

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