
Meeting: Executive
Date: 12 January 2010
Subject: Strategic Risk Register
Report of: Cllr Maurice Jones, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Strategic Risk Register.

Advising Officer: Clive Heaphy, Director of Corporate Resources
Contact Officer: Nick Murley, Assistant Director Audit & Risk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Executive
Key Decision Yes

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Corporate Risk Management Strategy sets the framework for the organisation to manage its risk which is critical to the effective overall management of the Council. The Strategic Risk Register is the overarching document capturing the strategic risks of the organisation and hence will support all of the council priorities.

Financial:

None directly from this report

Legal:

None directly from this report

Risk Management:

The strategic risks and mitigating control are set out in the appendix.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

The Council needs to ensure that people issues are high on the agenda, with a fit for purpose people strategy (this is under development and will be implemented in March 2010), and that managers are trained to manage individuals and teams effectively. Resourcing and workforce plans, as well as a comprehensive learning and development programme will underpin and support the people strategy. Additionally, managers will be supported by HR professionals when undertaking change programmes.

Equalities/Human Rights:

Central Bedfordshire Council has a duty to promote equality and to tackle discrimination relating to age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. Equality legislation can impact on every aspect of Council activity relating to service users, local communities, staff, stakeholders and contractors. Failure to comply with equality legislation can expose the Council to the risk of litigation and scrutiny by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. Individual employees, voluntary organisations or customers can also take legal action against councils which can result in court judgements or out of court settlements.

The People section of the Risk Register addresses the need to ensure that staff and managers are trained and supported to meet the requirements of equality legislation.

Community Safety:

None directly from this report

Sustainability:

None directly from this report

RECOMMENDATION(S):**That the Executive:**

- 1. Considers and approves the Strategic Risk Register (SRR) attached at Appendix A.**
- 2. Agrees to review the SRR twice a year.**

Reason for Recommendations:	Any well managed council will have an effective Corporate Risk Management Strategy in place. As part of the Central Bedfordshire strategy, approved by the Shadow Executive in February 2009, the Executive are asked approve the Strategic Risk Register to demonstrate the council is managing its strategic risks.
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Background

1. The Corporate Risk Management Strategy for Central Bedfordshire Council was approved by the Shadow Executive on the 17 March 2009.
2. As part of that strategy, the Executive have responsibility to approve and monitor a Strategic Risk Register of the Council. This register should capture the strategic risks of the organisation, score the risk and then identify the control measures to mitigate the impact and probability of these risks.

3. Under the Use of Resources assessment, risk management is a specific area measured by the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). Therefore approval of the Strategic Risk Register provides us with good evidence to demonstrate that we have effective risk management arrangements embedded within the organisation.

Strategic Risk Register

3. This is the first strategic register presented to the Executive for approval. It captures a number of strategic risks that are affecting our core business but also identifies a number of transitional risks that we are still facing as a result of local government reorganisation that we are expecting will fall away over time.

The core risks captured are as follows:

- Adult Social Care – service improvement and safeguarding vulnerable adults
- Children, Families and Learning – Service improvement and safeguarding Children
- Growth Agenda
- Recession
- Climate Change
- Waste
- Financial
- People
- Partnerships/Programmes/Projects
- Contracts/Commissioning
- Information Management

The transitional risks identified are as follows:

- Health & Safety
 - Service Level Agreements
 - Technological – systemic failure of ICT
 - Interim Accommodation Strategy
 - Business Continuity
 - Emergency Planning
4. The detailed register attached at appendix A sets out the individual risk, explaining in more detail the likely impact and then provides information on the risk control measures that are in place to mitigate the effect. A risk score, the product of the probability and impact, is presented representing how effective our current controls that are in place. A residual score is then presented assuming all of the controls are in place. The risk control owners are also set out in the register along with an expected completion date.
 5. The Corporate Management Team (CMT) have been actively involved in creating the register.

Conclusion and Next Steps

13. This is the first strategic register presented to the Executive. Once approved, CMT have agreed to monitor the register on a quarterly basis and ask the Executive to consider the register twice a year.
14. The Corporate Risk Management Strategy also expects the Audit Committee to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the strategy. As a result the Strategic Risk Register along with directorate and service registers will be presented to the Audit Committee in January 2010.
15. The strategic, directorate and service registers are all being used to inform the three year internal audit plan which will be presented to the Audit Committee in January 2010.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Strategic Risk Register

Background Papers:

Corporate Risk Management Strategy – Shadow Executive 17 March 2009

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands, Bedfordshire