

Central Bedfordshire Council

AUDIT COMMITTEE

3 April 2017

Risk Update Report

Report of Charles Warboys, Director of Resources
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Purpose of this report:

The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the Council's risk position as at March 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the contents of the report.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. This report is not scheduled to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny, as this is the responsibility of the Audit Committee.

Background

2. The Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee include the monitoring of the operation of the Risk Management Strategy. This report is the regular update report to assist the Committee in discharging its responsibilities.
3. The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the Council's risk position as at March 2017.

Strategic Risks

4. The March 2017 risk report is contained at Appendix 1. The report contains 16 strategic risks.
5. There are 12 strategic risks with a residual risk score of 9 or more. A score of 9 or more generally represents an unacceptable risk exposure, with further mitigation required.
6. The risks have been reconsidered and the key revisions are set out below. There has been one revision to the residual risk scores.

7. STR0019 – The risk relating to failure to deliver effective and cohesive health and social care to residents has been reviewed. There is an acknowledgement that the external health market is poor. This continues to be the highest scoring strategic risk and there continues to be significant challenges to the National Health System.
8. STR0027- The risk of failing to adopt a Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy has been updated to reflect the current anticipated timeframe for the Draft (Regulation 18) Plan to be published, which is now May/June 2017. The draft plan is due to be published for consultation in December 2017 and is planned for adoption in April 2018. The process has been delayed due to the publication of the Housing White Paper.
9. STR0032 - The risk of not being able to access a sustainable market for social care at a reasonable price as a result of the implementation of the National Living Wage and other legislation has been updated to reflect the additional mitigating actions taken. Domiciliary care is currently being retendered, and work is underway to develop Market Position Statements for Vulnerable People (e.g. Learning Disability, Mental Health and Physical Disability).
10. STR0035 – The risk of failing to deliver major transformation programmes within Children’s Services has been reviewed and updated to reflect the restructure of the management team and the resultant instability.
11. STR0036 – The risk of failure to deliver social cohesion has been updated to reflect progress made. This includes the establishment of the CBC Prevent Group, the development of an action plan to address recommendations arising from the Counter Terrorism Local Profile, and Police initiatives. There has been no change in the residual risk score.
12. STR0038 - The risk of an ineffective response to emergency planning has been reviewed and the residual risk score has been amended to reflect the reduced likelihood of this risk occurring. The residual likelihood risk score has decreased from 4 to 3, resulting in an overall residual risk score of 9. The reduction is due primarily to the outcome of the NHS England Core Standards for Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) Assurance Process; an annual process where NHS organisations and providers of NHS funded care (including CCGs, Acute Trusts and Community Service Providers) are required to undertake a self assessment and provide evidence that their organisation can meet the minimum EPRR standards required by NHS England. The results for 2016/17 have indicated that NHS organisations and providers operating in Bedfordshire are (either fully or) substantially compliant with the Core Standards (on a scale of: non-compliant, partially compliant, substantially compliant and fully compliant); a marked improvement on the 2015/16 Core Standard results. In addition, the response of health organisations to the Gas Outage which affected Ampthill, Maulden and Clophill was considered effective and efficient, alleviating concerns raised previously

that some health organisations may not be able to provide the required level of support in a major incident.

13. In addition, the assurance maps for the strategic risks have been updated following discussions with relevant officers.

14. There have been no changes to the remaining strategic risks.

Operational Risks

15. The risk report also highlights the key operational risks facing the Council. These have been drawn directly from Directorate risk registers as uploaded onto the JCAD risk management system.

16. The operational risks with a risk score of 15 or above have been regularly reported to the Audit Committee. There have been no changes to the key operational risks since the last update.

Emerging Risks

17. No emerging risks were identified as a result of this risk review.

Council Priorities

18. Good risk management enables delivery of the Council's aims and objectives. Good risk management ensures that we adopt a planned and systematic approach to the identification and control of the risks that threaten the delivery of objectives, protection of assets, or the financial wellbeing of the Council.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

19. None directly from this report.

Financial Implications

20. None directly from this report.

Equalities Implications

21. None directly from this report.

Conclusion and next Steps

22. Internal Audit and Risk will continue to coordinate and update the Strategic Risk register and an update will be presented to the next Audit Committee.

Appendices

Appendix A – March 2017 Risk summary dashboard.

Background Papers

None.