

Central Bedfordshire Council

AUDIT COMMITTEE

29 June 2017

Risk Update Report

Report of Charles Warboys, Director of Resources
(charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Clint Horne, Head of Internal Audit and Risk
(clint.horne@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Purpose of this report:

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

Strategic Risks

4. The June 2017 risk report is contained at Appendix A. 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. Most of the risks have been reconsidered and the key revisions are set out from paragraph 7 below.

STR0019 – The risk relating to failure to deliver effective and cohesive health and social care to residents has been reviewed. This continues to be the highest scoring strategic risk and there continues to be significant challenges to the National Health System. No amendments have been made to this risk for this update.

No additional risks have been added, only one risk (STR0009) has a revised residual risk score, this moved down from 16 to 12 after further consideration of the mitigating actions already underway.

7. STR0001 – The risk relating to the continuing financial pressures due to Central Government cuts, or loss of grant or other funding (e.g. Council Tax Support, Business Rates Retention, New Homes Bonus) has been updated to reflect the new savings target for the 17/18 financial year.
8. STR0008 – The risk relating to failure or disruption to key parts of the Council's ICT systems has been updated to reflect the further action planned that Data Centres are configured to a more highly secure configuration.
9. STR0009 – The risk relating to Partnership working and the increased risk that services to our public will be compromised and that increased costs will fall on the Council has documented further mitigating actions underway with a multi agency approach being developed, working closer with partners, communities and other stakeholders in a locality model. On reflection of the mitigation in hand the service felt the residual likelihood score could be revised down from 4 to 3 resulting in a overall residual score change from 16 to 12.
10. 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 July 2017. The draft plan is due to be published for consultation in February 2018 and is planned for adoption in April 2018. The process has been delayed due to the publication of the Housing White Paper and the General Election.
11. STR0033 – The risk of the Authority being impacted by cyber crime has been updated to reflect that several planned mitigating actions have now been completed.
12. STR0035 – The risk of the failure to deliver the organisational development plan has been updated to reflect that CMT are to further clarify the transformation agenda.
13. STR0035 – The risk of failing to deliver major transformation programmes within Children's Services has been reviewed and updated to reflect the both the appointment of the Assistant Director for Transformation and Education (Commences 17/07/17) and that the first 'locality' will be operational by the end of June 2017.

14. STR0035 – The risk of failure to support vulnerable people and families, including facets of access to accommodation, welfare reform and low levels of income, has had the mitigating actions already underway and the further action planned sections updated to remove several actions:

- Early Help Strategy in place. CS
 - Neglect Strategy in place. CS
 - Welfare Reform Strategy approved. CBC
 - Targeted Public Health delivery at the most vulnerable. PH
 - Promotion of preventative approach to health - "5 Ways to Wellbeing". PH
 - Homelessness Strategy Action Plan - progress towards DCLG "gold standard".SCHH
- and:
- Homelessness Strategy Action Plan - progress towards DCLG "gold standard".
 - Invested in Credit Unions / new publicity has increased activity.
 - Implement the Sheltered Housing Review, including de-designation of some schemes to meet the needs of other client groups. Rightsizing approach established with clear targets within the People scorecard, so as to make best use of stock.
 - Tenancy Sustainment approach, supporting tenants earlier to increase rent collection and avoid crisis/support.

15. STR0035 – The description of the risk for the uncertain national policy has been updated to reflect that new legislation, (Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) is likely to create additional resource demands and pressure on the Council.

16. There have been no changes to the remaining strategic risks in this update, however CMT has agreed to a full refreshed consideration of all Strategic Risks within the next quarter.

Operational Risks

17. Operational risks have been omitted from this update pending a more detailed review of processes to ensure that this continues to be fit for purpose.

Emerging Risks

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

Council Priorities

19. 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

20. None directly from this report.

Financial Implications

21. None directly from this report.

Equalities Implications

22. None directly from this report.

Conclusion and next Steps

23. 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 – June 2017 Risk summary dashboard.

Background Papers

None.