

Central Bedfordshire Council

AUDIT COMMITTEE

27th September 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 August 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 August 2017.

Strategic Risks

4. As stated in the June update, CMT tasked for a full review and refresh of the Strategic Risk Register in time for the next quarterly update. Therefore all risks in the Strategic Risk Register have been reviewed and updated in consultation with individual Risk Owners, Directorate Risk Co-ordinators and then subsequently CMT together. This report provides an update on the risks currently contained within the register.
5. Given the scale of changes, full details are not included within this report but the full Strategic Risk report has been included at Appendix B. The report now contains fourteen strategic risks.

6. Since the June update three risks have been removed, two being sufficiently covered by other existing risks and the third swapped for a new risk. These are:

‘STR0019 – failure to deliver effective and cohesive health and social care to residents’ with risk *‘STR0009 - Fragility / Failure of Partners’* being considered sufficient alone.

‘STR0031 - The capacity of the Council to deliver services in the light of further shifts in Government Policy,’ this is considered to overlap with the consequences of *‘STR0001 - Continuing significant reduction in or redirection of funding due to Central Government cuts, or loss of grant or other funding e.g. Health funding, Schools’ Finance Regulations.’*

‘STR0034 – Failure to Deliver the organisational development plan’ has been replaced with a new wider ranging risk *‘STR0041 - Failure to enact the changes we seek to move the organisation forward.’* With risk STR0034 moving onto the operational risk register managed at the Resources Directorate level.

7. Many risks have been updated as to their Description, Mitigating Actions Already Underway and Further Action Planned fields. The changes are shown in a track changes format on the Risk Register at Appendix B, with the above deleted risks marked grey.
8. In an effort to improve transparency for the risks with multiple risk owners, some initial efforts have been made to more clearly show responsibility for both existing mitigation and planned mitigation. It is hoped to continue to progress this for subsequent updates.
9. Two risks (STR0036 & STR0001) have revised their residual risk scores down, each moving from 16 to 12 based on the likelihood score being revised from a 4 to a 3 after further consideration of the mitigating actions already in place or underway.

Operational Risks

10. 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

11. As previously mentioned a new replacement risk has been added to the register; *‘STR0041 - Failure to enact the changes we seek to move the organisation forward.’* Additionally, the Information Governance risk (STR0013) has also been updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which are applicable from May 2018.

Council Priorities

12. 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

13. None directly from this report.

Financial Implications

14. None directly from this report.

Equalities Implications

15. None directly from this report.

Conclusion and next Steps

16. 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 – September 2017 Strategic Risk summary dashboard.

Appendix B – September 2017 Strategic Risk Register

Background Papers

None.